START

ON I

LONDON

REEL K4B

Reel K-4-B.

War Diaries —

1-2-41 to 8-4-41, con't

from Reel K-3-B.

MOST SECRET.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Aberdeen Area.

One German X Mine in new condition rendered safe on beach at Black Dog.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2022/15).

Aberdeen closed.

Suspected minelaying by enemy A/C. Near entrance Channel, Port of Aberdeen closed.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2033/15).

Liverpool.

Mine report to 1800/15. One explosion observed 240° Bar Light Vessel 4/12 miles. No vessel near.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2223/15).

Spurn Point.

The following 35 mines were exploded today. Particulars.
(F.O. Humber, 2321/15).

Tyne closed.

Port of Tyne closed owing to suspected minelaying.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2329/15).

Blyth Closed.

Port of Blyth closed from 2351/15 due to enemy action.
(N.O.I.C. Blyth, 2352/15).

Enemy Intelligence.

12 M/V's off Gironde.

At 0430 own aircraft sighted twelve merchant vessels course 320° in 045° 18'N., 000° 40'W.
(V.A.S. 0826/15 to TIGRIS).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

8 to 10 M/V's off the Ems.

A/C reported at 0550 in 53 38'N., 6 30'E. sighted in haze down moon 8-10 M/V's (2 3000/4000 tons other smaller). (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1107/15 to H.Q.C.C.)

20 M/Vs.

20 M/Vs. minimum tonnage 5000 course 340° magnetic, speed 10 knots unescorted. Position of ship is 55° 5'N., 6° 50'E. (J/235. 1505/15 to Chatham).

GNEISENAU.
SCHARNHORST.
5 Danish T/Bs.

(1) Swedish authorities have report of GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST being in Oslo Fjord 31/1. They have had no report since. B.3.

(2) 5 Danish T/Bs. left Copenhagen on 11/2 in tow. They have been held up at Hellerup by ice. B.3.
(N.A. Stockholm 1907/15).

Technical.

Failure of R.D.F. screen.

X.458 15/2. C.in C. Rosyth 1547/30. Explanation.
(Air Ministry, 1550/15 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. ~~(Contd.)~~

General.

Submarines as Convoy Escorts.

Cancel my 1040/14. Amended policy re use of submarines to escort ocean convoys and for anti-raider operations.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1214/15 to F.O.(S) F.O.C.N.A. B.S.S.) See Operations Volume.
Orders to Submarines.
(F.O.(S) 1803/15). See Operations Volume.

All Convoys to have warship escort.

Decided to provide ocean escort for every convoy of a battleship cruiser or submarine.
(D.O.D.(H) 1232/15 to C.in C. H.F.)
See Operations Volume.

Scarcity of Tonnage.

Losses of merchant ships by enemy action and marine accidents, considerable number of ships under repair and large amount of tonnage requisitioned for Service use combine to make shipping position very serious. It is important that any enemy shipping which can be captured should be got into our service as rapidly as possible.
(D.T.D.1850/15 to C.in C's China, E.I., S.A. A.W.I. Med., F.O.C.N.A.)

Coastal Convoys.

S.N.72.

Proposed time of sailings, etc.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1603/15).
Sailed 0600/15, escorts, 16 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 0635/15.)
List.
(1036/15).

F.S.9.

Arrived except CITY OF MALINES.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 0626/15).
E.T.A. 2 A/S ships escorting.
(N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1710/15).

W.N.81.

Methil's 1610/14. THALA stranded.
KYLEBROOK not from Oban.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 0856/15).

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

F.S.11. Absentees.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0929/15).
56 Ships.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0930/15).
List. (6 Ships).
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1550/15).
E.T.A. PUFFIN escorting.
(N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1710/15).

F.N.7. Humber ships arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Humber 0929/15).
E.T.A. May Island.
(SOUTHDOWN, 1230/15).
Tyne ships arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1542/15).
Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1938/15).

F.S.10. Position, 22 ships for London.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 0950/15).
Arrived, Absentees.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1802/15).

W.N.85. List and destinations.
W.N.85 (O). (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0958/15. N.C.S.O. Oban, 1739/15.)
Addition.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1109/15).
Sailed 1430/15.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1736/15).

W.N.83. Arrived, 1045/15.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1112/15).

F.N.9. 0911/15, 26 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1115/15).
List and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1245/15).
List and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Harwich, 1537/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

W.N.84. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1226/15).

Channel. Western Channel Night Report.
(C.in C. W.A. 1228/15, 2112/15).

E.N.U.71. Arrived 7 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1229/15).

E.N.71. 3 ships detached arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1504/15).

O.B.283. List and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1430/15).

C.K.25. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1439/15).

F.S.12. Numbers from Tyne etc.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1450/15 to VIVIEN VANITY).
Sailed 1400/15, 11 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1605/15).
List.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1654/15).

F.N.84(?8). 4 from Middlesborough.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1451/15 to VERSATILE, WESTMINSTER).

F.N.8. List and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1556/15).
To join.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1655/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

C.W.26. — Sailing 19/2.
(C.in C. Nore, 1738/15).

E.N.73.) W.N.86.) — POWEY as additional A/A escort.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1827/15).

Rosyth. — Arrivals and departure.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2327/15).

Ocean Convoys.

S.L.66. — Destinations.
(D.T.D. 0029/15 and 2027/15to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

O.G.53. — 3 ships to join.
(C.in C. W.A. 1127/15 to PIROUETTE).
H.M.S. VULCAN sailed in.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1301/15).
List and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1440/15).
Sailed 6 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1441/15).
Ocean escort.
(C.in C. W.A. 1556/15) (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1711/15, 1811/15).

S.C.10. — Advance sailing telegram.
(S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1146/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

H.G.52. Arrivals.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey. 1211/15).
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1952/15).

O.G.C.53. 0730/16, escort NORTHERN GEM, 19 ships.
(N.C.S.C. Oban, 1603/15).

H.G.53. Sailing telegram as amended Admty.
(D.T.D. 1758/15).
LONDONDERRY to join DEPTFORD as escort.
(C.in C. W.A. 2252/15).

S.L.64. Meet.
(C.in C. W.A. 1914/15 to HARVESTER, WOLVERINE etc.)

S.C.23. Destinations.
(D.T.D. to C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2006/15).

S.C.20. Signalling. Understood that H.M.S. RANPURA made signals by secret position method to collect her stragglers. These signals were intercepted by H.X.105 stragglers and confused them. Request you give instructions to (a) Normally restrict W/T signals to the usual D/F procedure.
(b) If considered desirable to give a R/V by W/T when well to the westward such signal should be prefixed by the name of the Commodore's ship.
(D.T.D. 1412/15 to R.A.3.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X.106. Departure BURNHAM.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1447/15).
Departure MALCOLM.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1545/15).
P.C.and S. 060° 20' 014° 00', 090°, 5 knots, gale still persisting, aircraft report convoy 110 miles ahead. Intend to steer to base at dusk.
(LA MALOUINE, 1901/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

Military. Convoys.

W.S.6. A.M.2257/9/2 and 1737/9/2. Failure to sail principally due to CANDYTUFT failing to find transport in or outside the Swept Channels. Visibility poor. Written report follows.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1441/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

WOODSTOCK. (British 958 tons).
Of F.S.Convoy II. Sunk in collision with ship of F.N. 7 in 54° 26'N., 0° 24'W. WOODSTOCK floating on her side. All crew rescued.
(WOOLSTON, 0135/15, 0217/15).

BLYSKAWICA. Compelled by defect to return to Clyde refuelling Loch Ewe.
(BLYSKAWICA 0201/15).

Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1442/15).

CORYTON. (British 4553 tons).
Ashore Longstone.
(Cullercoats Radio 0652/16).

ATHELQUEEN. (British Tanker, 8780 tons).
In 50 57'N., 38 40'W. hove to in difficulties very heavy weather may need assistance, 1030/15 Ends.
(Plymouth W/T 0930/15 G.M.T.)
(Valentia Radio 1035/15).

PARIS.
ETHYLENE.
ASSIDUITY. (British 1509 tons). Beached at Robin Hoods Bay through collision damage. Bows partially submerged. Crew taken off.
S.S. ETHYLENE in Hartlepool after collision with ASSIDUITY off Whitby. ASSIDUITY entered Tees. Both ships sustained slight damage.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1030/15).

AELYBRYN. (British 4986 tons).
Arrived Belfast Lough, lost convoy, engine trouble.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1043/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Sunken Ship.	What appears to be a small ship reported sunk just below the surface 1900 62D buoy 2 miles 2 cables. (F.O. Humber 1106/15 to Admty). (C.in C. Rosyth 1245/15 to VANITY etc.)
COREOPSIS.	(Corvette). My 1301/14. Delayed by defect in main feed pump. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2026/15).
STRATHGIE (M/S Trawler). RYDE (Paddle Minesweeper).	In collision at West Pier, Granton on 15/2. Both vessels damaged. (D.O.R. 17/2).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Attack by Raider on Convoy S.L.S.64 on 12/2.

VOLTURNO, ships at Funchal.

N.C.S.O. Funchal's 0904/14.
Request you instruct N.C.S.O. Funchal to detain VOLTURNO and any other ships from convoy that may arrive until you can make arrangements for their A/S escort to Gibraltar or to join H.G.54.
(D.O.D.(F) 0028/15 to F.O.C.N.A.).
Your 0904/14. Retain ships from convoy SLS 64 for the present. Further instructions follow.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 0514/15 to N.C.S.O. Funchal).

Probable SCHARNHORST battle-cruiser.

N.C.S.O. Funchal reports from evidence of North American ships of convoy S.L.S.64 that surface raider that attacked convoy in position 037° 12' N. 021° 20' W. at 1135/12 was probably SCHARNHORST class battle cruiser. (F.O.C.N.A., 0238/15, to N.A. Stn.).

Orders to O.B.V's.

Cancel my 2234/14. (F.O.C.N.A., 0239/15 to MARAN, CAMITO, CAVINA, CORINTHIAN.

Identity of enemy.

Your 1954/14. Following information urgently required.
(A) Number and position of turrets.
(B) Number of guns in turrets.
(C) Where was aircraft stowed?
(D) Description and position of masts and bridge structure.
(E) Any other details which would help in recognition.
(D.D.I.C. 0857/15, to N.C.S.O. Funchal).
Your 0857/15. (a) Main armament four turrets, two forward two aft superimposed. Secondary armament four groups abaft B Turrets and forward of X turrets.
(b) A and Y Turrets three guns each. B and X Turrets two guns each. Secondary armament four guns in each group.
(c) Aircraft on crane abaft main mast.
(d) Very substantial bridge and control tower. Well defined cowl topped funnel close to bridge. Main mast well clear and abaft funnel.

/ (e) A/A Gun ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Attack by Raider on Convoy S.L.S.64 on 12/2. (Contd.).

Identity of enemy. (Contd.).

(e) A/A Gun between control tower and B turrets high mounting bow and stern comply with SCHARNHORST Class silhouette but vessel considered smaller. Searchlights grouped around funnel. Very prominent range finder on control tower with copper dome beneath.
(N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1136/15, to Admty.).
Your 1136/15. Are you certain ship had two turrets aft?
(D.D.I.C. 1854/15 to N.C.S.O. Funchal).
Your 1854/15. Ship's Officers interviewed individually and collectively are of unanimous opinion that raider had 2 turrets aft. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 2004/15 to Admty.).

Orders to S.L.S.64 ships.

For ships of WARLABY Convoy proceeding towards U.K. Steer to pass through position 170° 29 miles from LUPIN not earlier than 0800 G.M.T./18 thence steer to pass through position 042° 156 from LUPIN to position 068° 440 miles from LUPIN.
(D.T.D. 1927/15, to C.B.M.S. Area 1).

Operations Against Vichy French.

Convoy.

French survey ship ESTAFETTE and armed trawler ARRETO passed Gibraltar westbound escorting French M.V's CAUDEBEC, 1471 tons, VENNOME (not in Lloyds) and BAMAKO, 2357 tons.
(D.O.R. 16/2).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MALAYA	To join W.S.6. (D.O.D.(F) 0115/15 to F.O.C.N.A.) See Operations Volume.
SHEFFIELD	Admty. 2005/14. Pass through position 034° 45' N. 010° 00' W. thence direct to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 0234/15, to SHEFFIELD). C.S.10 2301N/14. Cannot reach rendezvous by a.m./19. Reduced to 12 knots by weather. Fuel remaining permits proceeding Freetown direct for S.L.67. (SHEFFIELD, 0747/15 to Admty.). Unless SHEFFIELD can comply with A.M.2005/14 para. 2 as amended by C.S.10's 2301/14 propose SHEFFIELD proceed to Gibraltar at best speed subsequently joining S.L.65 as soon as possible, an A.M.C. of Western Patrol being detailed to escort this convoy during absence of cruiser. (F.O.C.N.A. 1252/15, to Admty.). SHEFFIELD's 0747/15 and F.O.C.N.A.'s 1252/15. Amend route of S.L.65 and S.L.S.65. C.S.10's 2301/14. Convoy may proceed. Orders to BULOLO, KENYA, SHEFFIELD. (D.O.D.(F) 1755/15 to C.S.10, SHEFFIELD.). See Operations Volume.
TUNA	R/V with trawler SCOTTISH in position 360° Cape Spartel 8 at 1100/16. If you wish to communicate with her pass signal Capt.(S) 8. (Capt. S.8. 1020/15, to TUNA).
Ponta Delgada S/M Patrol, discontinued.	Cancel my 1040/14. S/M Patrol to be discontinued. Orders to TUNA, 8th S/M.F., etc. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1214/15 to F.O.(S) F.O.C.N.A. etc.). (See Operations Volume, under HOME COMMANDS, Shipping and Convoys.).
Sunderlands overdue.	2 Destroyers proceeding westward from Gibraltar to search for Sunderland flying boat which may be down between Cape St. Vincent and Straits of Gibraltar. (Capt. S.8. 1528/15 to TUNA).

/ Daily summary operations ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.).

Sunderlands overdue. (Contd.).	Daily summary operations. No flying owing to weather. 1 and 3 Sunderlands due from U.K. at present 7 hours overdue. (200 Group, 1700/15). Sunderland P.9623 left Mountbatten 2255Z/15 due at Gibraltar 0900Z/15 not yet arrived. No W/T communication established. 2 destroyers searching towards Cape St. Vincent since 1500/15 but very heavy south westerly gale has prevented any search by aircraft. (F.O.C.N.A. 2230/15).
TUNA position.	At 0800/16 TUNA 035° 45' N. 006° 20' W. proceeding to R/V with escort in position 360° Cape Spartel 8 at 1100 thence to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1532/15, to N.A. Stn.).
RESOLUTION.	My 1022/14. Weather still unsuitable for RESOLUTION to sail. (F.O.C.N.A., 1018/15). My 1246/15 para. 1 and your 1244/14 para. 2. Please confirm that FIREDRAKE is to proceed to U.K. with RESOLUTION. (F.O.C.N.A. 1120/15, to C.in C. W.A.).
NEREIDA	Portuguese M/V NEREIDA now sailing on special service from Lisbon to Casablanca and return to Lisbon should not be interfered with. These instructions apply to present round trip only. (D.N.I. 1801/15 to S.O.I. Gibraltar).
AGIOS SFYRIDON HYDROUSSA	Your 1702/11/2. AGIOS SFYRIDON should be sailed independently to Belfast for orders. HYDROUSSA should be held Gibraltar meantime. (D.T.D. 1925/15 to F.O.C.N.A.).
HIPPER at Brest.	One HIPPER class cruiser is reported at Brest 1115/15. (F.O.C.N.A. 1946/15, to N.A. Stn.).

/ BELGIQUE. ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

BELGIQUE. Your 1241/11. Hoped to dispose of cargo at either Cadiz or Malaga request whether crew willing to proceed to either of those ports. (D.S.T. 1951/15, to F.O.C.N.A.).

South Atlantic.

EVINOS Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1220/14 EVINOS arrived during daylight.
(S.O.I. Capetown 0742/15 to Admty.).

SCOTTISH TRADER. Your 1139/15, requesting reply to 2016/10. Following is repetition of my 1819/11
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1318/15 to Admty.).

DRAGON's visit to Duala. Compliments from Governor, French Cameroons.
(N.C.S.O. Duala 1427/15).

CYMBULA water supply. Object of my 0042/13 was to assist you to hold maximum possible amount of water afloat in all available local craft and to reduce draw on shore supplies in event of mishap to CYMBULA. Desired however to avoid delay to these two ships. No suitable tanker in position to divert for loading at Takoradi.
(D. of S.T. 1451/15 to C.in C. S.A.).

CORFU Director of Nigerian Marine Lagos 2000/13.
To reduce risk of further damage CORFU, request you will send regular weather report to CORFU when within 1000 miles of Simonstown.
(C.in C. S.A., 1801N/15, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

/ Whale catchers ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Whale catchers LANCING THORSHAMMER QUEEN OF BERMUDA

Nortraship London have instructed Norwegian Whaling factory LANCING to carry out orders received from Naval Authority. She should proceed immediately to Falkland Islands for further orders unless different instructions are received from Adty. while on passage. Report date of sailing.
(D.T.D. 1847/15 to Consul, Rio de Janeiro.).
Pass to Nortraship.
Have instructed THORSHAMMER to proceed whaling provided considered safe.
Have instructed WEGGERS Catchers proceed Montevideo unless THORSHAMMER can use them.
Am instructing LANCING proceed contact THORSHAMMER - Sammo.
(D.T.D. 1855/15, to Consul General, New York).
1. A. Suggestions in N.O.I.C. Falklands 0117/12 THORSHAMMER and catchers to proceed whaling etc. have been agreed by Nortraship, New York. Orders to LANCING, THORSHAMMER, and OLE WEGGER catchers.
2. C.in C. S.A's 2027/13. Concur that QUEEN OF BERMUDA remains in area for present.
(D.T.D. 1926/15 to N.O.I.C. Falklands, C.in C. S.A.).

BULOLO

My 2354/12 and your 1117/12.
To ensure buoyancy No. 4 hold of BULOLO should be fully stowed with steel drums.
(D.O.D.(F) 1928/15 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

Merchant ship movements.

(N.C.S.O. Freetown 2012/15).

CYMBULA

My 1121/11. FREESIA is to escort CYMBULA to prudent limit of endurance and then order her to Freetown. FREESIA is to fuel at Ponta Delgada, Azores, returning Liverpool independently.
(C.in C. W.A., 2252/15, to LONDONDERRY, FREESIA.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

A/C Minelaying orders to UTMOST.	Aircraft have laid mines type unknown off harbour entrance. (V.A. Malta, 0045/15, to UTMOST). About 10 aircraft laid mines off Valetta Harbour P.M./14. Several fixed approximately off entrance to Grand Harbour which has been closed for the present. Some struck land and exploded two being in Senglea. One reported in Grand Harbour near Custom House. Belive creeks are clear but am sweeping for accoustic and magnetic mines as best I can with the limited facilities here. (V.A. Malta, 0123/15, to C.in C. Med.).
Orders to TRIUMPH.	Unknown type of mine laid by aircraft off harbour entrance. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1205/15, to TRIUMPH).
Orders to UNIQUE.	Leave patrol through 034° 30' 012° 16' 035° 32' 014° 12' so as to arrive off Marsamxett 0630/18. Mine(s) of unknown type laid by aircraft off harbour entrance which is to be approached (as for TRIUMPH). (Comdr.(S) 1, 1216/15, to UNIQUE).
UPHOLDER USK patrol.	USK made only one sighting. Cancel area W., carry out patrol in area T. South of 033° 06' between 012° 25' and 013° 05'. UTMOST reports coastal route being used. (Comdr.(S) 1, 0054/15, to UPHOLDER). UTMOST reports focal point F. is approx. 033° 00' 012° 10'. Convoys escorted by aircraft and T.V.D.'s and A/S measures appeared to be on increase. (Comdr.(S) 1, 1210/15, to UPHOLDER).
ROVER attacks on enemy M.V.'s.	Submarines and merchant ships unsuccessfully, tanker successfully attacked. Prompt A/S measures including shore torpedo attack. Two stern torpedoes remain. Intend returning. (ROVER, 0137/15, to Capt. S.1). Orders to ROVER and return route. (Capt. S.1, 0831/15).

/ Convoy for Benghazi. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Convoy for Benghazi.

Convoy arrives Benghazi A.M./18.
Impress on Army necessity of having some A.A. defences installed by that time.
If (?berth) can be provided for COVENTRY she will remain there.
(C.in C. Med., 1055/15, to S.O., Force"I").

Rhodes bombed.

Night 13/14. 3 Wellingtons dropped 9000 lbs. bombs on Midi Bay aerodrome, Scarpanto and Kattavia and Calato aerodromes, Rhodes.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1207/15).

Swordfish a/c Operations.

2 Squadrons of Swordfish aircraft will operate one North and one South of Kerkenah after midnight 15/16. UNIQUE is to act in accordance with my 1755/13.
(Comdr. S. 1, 1713/15, to S/M's on Patrol).

Ammunition.

Your 1753/3. Reserves to be maintained.
(D.T.S.D., 1722/15 to C.in C. Med.).

Smoke generation.

Asking for details (C.in C. Med. 1732/15).

Air Raids and Mining, Malta.

Malta G.M.T. 1940 to 2340/14 series of enemy raids. Raiders flew in close succession. Some glided in dropping bombs parachute mines and flares. Bombs dropped Grand Harbour St. Elmo, dockyard and Tigne areas also in sea eastern side of island. Fighters up no interceptions. Fulmar despatched Southern coast of Sicily for returning enemy aircraft. Nil results. Civilian damage and casualties. 0930 to 1030 approx. 25 enemy fighters including Me. 109's evidently on recco.
1430 to 1514 approx. 10 enemy fighters circled the island at about 24,000 feet. Confirmed mines laid off Valletta Harbour. 3 exploded in Senglea.
(H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1735/15, to Air Min. amended 2069/15).

/ Enemy Air Attacks. ...

War Diary. 15.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy Air Attacks.

On 10, 11 and 24/1. Further to A.M. 1334/26, following amplifying report from C.in C. Med. (D.T.S.D., 1741/15 to C.in C's etc. Original in Lion copy only.

Operations against supply ships.

TRIUANE sighted a convoy of two escorted Merchant ships off Tripoli on afternoon/11 and attacked with gunfire, obtaining one or two hits on nearest ship before being forced to dive. At 1630 this convoy was seen returning to Tripoli and largest ship of 3500 tons was sunk by torpedo.
2. V.A. Malta reports three Swordfish on patrol attacked an escorted convoy of 4 ships on night 13/14 Feb. off Kerkenah Island. One and possibly two hits claimed. Owing to visibility result not absolutely certain but considered one ship sunk. A further force of 4 Swordfish sent subsequently did not succeed in making contact.

COSCO

3. At 1130/14 February Italian ship COSCO heard making S.O.S. off Cape Crzzuto passing Calabria, ship evidently sank.
4. (?10 ships) entered Benghazi on 13/2. (C.in C. Med. 1755/15).

Conduct on encountering French submarines.

Adty. mge. 373 A of 28/3/1940 and 452 A of 8/10/1940 Request confirmation that instructions in these two messages represent the latest orders on subject of action against submarines in Mediterranean. 1821/15.

Suez Canal.

Since Canal was open to through traffic on 12/2 20 ships have arrived Port Said and 18 ships have arrived (?Suez) largest ship to transit 16,000 tons. 17 ships now (?in) transit. Programme of dredging is up to schedule time.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1845/15.).

/ "Cucumbers" ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

"Cucumbers". V.A. Malta's 1413/9, 1600/9, 0905/13.
Re continuance of "Cucumber" operations.
(D.B.O.D. (M) to C.in C. Med., 1756/15)
See Mediterranean Volume.

Minesweeping Gear. Your 2331/7, 1531/9, 1105/11 and A.S. Alexandria's 1624/11.
Magnetic and acoustic M/S gear being sent as follows.
(D.M.S., 1905/15 to C.in C. Med.).

Libya Bases. A.M. 1139/12. Officers and ratings being sent in W.S.6 B.
(D.P.S., 1923/15 to C.in C. Med.).

GRIMSBY, SHOREHAM, INDUS, HINDUSTAN } C.in C. Med. 2331/7, 2233/13. To be transferred from E.I. Station.
(1 S.L., 0116/15 to C.in C's Med., E.I., etc.). See Mediterranean Volume.

CRISTA, RODI } British, under Government charter, damaged by mines at Tobruk before 9/2. Now at Alexandria being surveyed.
(D.S. 529).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

WIDNES. — C. in C. Med 2331/7, 2233/13. To remain on E.I. Station. Re other minesweeping forces. (1.S.L. 0116/15) See Mediterranean Volume.

GRIMSBY.)
SHOREHAM.)
INDUS.)
HINDUSTAN.) — Re transfer to Mediterranean (1.S.L. 0116/15) See Mediterranean Volume. Your 0116/15, para 3. Concur. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 1035/15) SHOREHAM, see 1456/15.

Operation "Canvas". — My 1910/14 para 4. (C. in C. E.I. 0236Z/15 1140Z/15 and 1627/15) See Italian Merchant Ships.

U.S.9. — My 0932/7. Ships and date. (S.S.T.O. India, 0530Z/15, 0532Z/15 to C. in C. E.I) See Operations Volume.

Mogadishu, SHROPSHIRE, HAWKINS, HERMES. — My 1300/7 and my 1910/14. As there is no need for further bombardment of Kismayu SHROPSHIRE and HAWKINS will bombard shipping and defences at Mogadishu about sunset to-day 15/2 and if necessary HERMES aircraft will make dive bombing or torpedo attack on shipping there at dawn tomorrow 16/2. (C. in C. E.I. 0636Z/15 to Admty). Your 0636/15. See my 0010/15 (given restricted MOST SECRET marking). (D.O.D.(F) 1037/15 to C. in C. E.I). Admty. 0010/15 (Re Italian Merchant Ships). Operation referred to in my 0636/15 has been cancelled. It was planned to assist the Military but they inform me it is not essential.
10522/15.

Kismayu Occupied. — Operation "CANVAS". Kismayu was occupied by our troops at 1415 G.M.T./14. If this news is released suggest capture of enemy ships be released also. (C. in C. E.I. 0648/15 to Admty). Your 0648/15. Release of news of the capture of enemy ships may lead to more efficient scuttling. No intention to publish until all enemy ships are accounted for. (D.P.D. 1825/15 to C. in C. E.I).

/A/C.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

A/C Sqdns moved from India.

Your X.625 11/2. Aircraft 27 and 60 Sqdns. have left this command for Far East. B.T. en route with maintenance personnel, expect despatch remainder of Squadron's personnel and equipment by sea next week.
(Air H.Q. India, 0802/15 to Air Ministry).

Air Report Berbera bombed.

4, Kenya. No. 250 up to 1200 hours 15/2/41. Following S.A.A.F. operations in support of our troops in Italian Somaliland and South Abyssinia, 13/2, 6 Battles dropped 21,200 lbs. of bombs on Berbera. 12/2 and 13/2, 4 Hartebeestes dropped bombs on enemy positions on river Delta.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1208/15 to Air Ministry).

W.S.5.B.

Durban. Departures AUSTRALIA escorting W.S.5 B.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1341Z/15).

SHOREHAM.

Admy's 0116/15 SHOREHAM is not fitted for M/S. My 1133/8/2/1940 and 0607/11/2/1940 refer. F.O.C.R.I.N. requested to report whether her M/S outfit is at Bombay.
(C. in C. E.I. 1456/15 to Admty).

Escort of B.N.F.2. HINDUSTAN. SHOREHAM.

Adty 0116/15 (i) GRIMSBY and INDUS leave Aden with B.N.F. two on 17/2 and will continue to Suez. (ii) H.M.I.S. HINDUSTAN is now available Suez. (iii) SHOREHAM on completion of boiler cleaning will leave Aden on 21/2. (v) C. in C. Med. is requested to order HINDUSTAN as desired.
(C. in C. E.I. 20522/15).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.2.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo China Agreement.	Is for all practical purposes in force; shipping and trade are proceeding under it. Unlikely to be overridden by Japanese demands, gives Decoux ammunition for resisting them. (C. in C. China 0427/15).
Flying Boats.	Your ORG 502 (T.C.C. 1028/13). To help us understand your problem please signal what the two tenders would do. Is a second tender required now? (Air Min., 1500/15 to A.H.Q. Far East).
U.S. Navy.	My 1908/11 para 6. Navy Dept. are taking following action. (D.N.I. 1721/15 to C. in C. China).
Diversion of Shipping	Your 0513/14. Consideration is being given to diversion and necessary orders will be issued by Admiralty when this is considered desireble. (D.T.D. 1935/15 to C. in C. China).

America & West Indies.

Enemy Unit.	For information. Unreliable D/F fix indicate possible enemy surface unit between 032°N. and 036° N. and 042° W. and 053° W. at 0136Z/15. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1101/15 to PRINCE DAVID).
ATHEL QUEEN, distress.	Following has been read. 50.37 N. 38.40 W. ATHEL QUEEN hove to in difficulties, very heavy weather may need assistance ends. (D.T.D. 1921/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
NEW NORTHLAND.	Your 1722/9. Defects, repairs time estimated 6 days. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1930/15 to C. in C.A.W.I)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Singapore Conference.	Australian Naval delegates. (A.C.N.B. 0110Z/15 to Admty).
Raider Victims.	Reference Admiralty policy withholding publication names ship victims of raider attacks pending proof of enemy knowledge through neutral channels, request advices of such proof regarding ships in Australian trade may be communicated to Naval Board as received by Admiralty. (A.C.N.B. 1090/15 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ELBE. — Press report states has left Kobe. Was loading 4200 tons of oil fuel on 23/1 at Yokohama (D.S. 529).

ROBERT MECHRING)
OROTAVA) — Messages concerning passage through ice in Baltic were transmitted by ROBERT MECHRING on 12/2 using signal letters DOBM which were previously allotted to German OROTAVA. Latter may therefore have been lost or taken over for war purposes. (D.S. 530).

ANKARA. — Last reported in November and December as being prepared at Trieste as a transport, believed to have sailed from Palermo on 10/2 (D.S. 530).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

OCTANE.
SUROIT. — Conband Gibraltar telegram no. 73 15/2. My 1783/3/1/41 French Tanker OCTANE. Agents here have received cable from Bulk Oil Steamship Co., London stating that they have been appointed Managers for OCTANE by Ministry of Shipping. This vessel and French Tanker SUROIT are detained this port, no order for their seizure as in case of other French vessels having been received. Request instructions. (Conband, Gib., 1100/15 to Admty).

SENATEUR
DUHAMEL. — French SENATEUR DUHAMEL arrived at Londonderry from Convoy HG 52. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1232/15).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

SAVOIA.
ADRIA.
ERMINIA
MAZZELLI
MANON.

Operation "CANVAS". My 1910/14 para 4. Following 4 ex Italian Ships have arrived Mombasa, SAVOIA, ADRIA, ERMINIA MAZZELLI, MANON.
(C. in C. E.I. 02362/15).
FORMIDABLE 1614/13 merchant ship reported sunk was reported in air reconnaissance previous to FORMIDABLE'S (?transmission) as "stern appeared to be under water".
(C. in C. E.I. 11402/15).
Your 0236/15. Colonial Office asked to institue immediate proceedings to seize ships in prize at Mombasa, Ministry of Shipping will then requisition them out of Prize Court. Urgently necessary to get ships into Service as soon as possible. Request your proposals.
(D.T.D. 1627/15 to C. in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

MARON (C.B.V.) missed 14/2.	MARON reports being missed by two torpedoes at 1845/14 in position 36° 41' N., 20° 3 24' W., (C. in C., W.A., 0154/15 to SCARBOROUGH)
MAPLECOURT (Torpedoed 6/2)	Now presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 530)
Unknown Ship (Attacked 0240/14)	Searched for unknown ship from 0600 to 1900 with assistance with aircraft over wide area around position given in your 1955/14. No sign of vessel, visibility excellent, returning to Eastward ? SOUTHERN PRIDE in company. (SALVONIA, 1905/15 to F.O.I.C., Greenock)
ARTHUR F. CORWIN. (Torpedoed 13/2)	Your 1154/14 (Re air recco and use of hunting groups against U-Boats) This point continually in mind. Grateful for any assistance you can give. Sinkings are chiefly due to straggling, every endeavour made to prevent. Intended to use fast escort groups on hunts when other commitments and the repair situation allow. Admiral Noble agrees. (C. in C., W.A., 2338/15 to C. in C., H.F.)

Submarines Reported

Derelict possibly mistaken for U-Boat.	Your 1149/14. (Re sinking of derelict) no, but gunfire sunk it so low it could no longer be hit. Depth charges fired from thrower shook up wreck still further, but it could not be made to disappear entirely. (Capt. D. 5. 1046/15 to C. in C., H.F.)
0318	About 57° N., 23° W., indefinite position of German U/B. (D.S. 529)
1219	54.30 N., 24.30 W., indefinite position (D.S. 530)
2012	53° N., 25° W., very indefinite position. (D.S. 530)

/Estimated....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.2.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

3 M.L's patrolled to the eastward of Aldeburgh last night.

ARETHUSA returned to Scapa this evening from patrol in the Iceland-Faeroes passage.

British Air Activity

Attacks today were made on Dutch and Belgian ports, ships and barges.

Weather conditions caused routine patrols in the Northern part of the North Sea and in the Shetlands area to be cancelled, and those in the southern part of the North Sea to be curtailed.

Enemy Air Activity

M/S Trawler ORMONDE was bombed and sunk off Cruden Scaurs this evening, whilst searching the war channel with LIGNY and CHRYSOLITE. The latter was also bombed and machine gunned and had 3 light casualties but suffered no damage; she heavily engaged the enemy aircraft, which was last seen in difficulties only 50ft above the sea.

WHITSHED was bombed early this morning N.E. of Cromer but suffered no damage. COTSWOLD was unsuccessfully attacked in the Thames Estuary about noon and GOLDEN EAGLE early this morning.

Damage was caused to No. 9 dock pumping station at Chatham by attack last night.

/Training.....

War Diary

16.2.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Training establishment ROYAL ARTHUR at Skegness was somewhat extensively damaged by air attack early this morning. There were few casualties.

Mining

EMPIRE OTTER Sunk — EMPIRE OTTER (Tanker 4626 tons) was mined 25 miles S.W. of Hartland Point shortly after midnight 15/16 and was abandoned, search failed to discover any trace of her.

SOUTHSEA Sunk — Paddle M/S SOUTHSEA was mined in the Tyne today and was beached. The port was closed.

THOMAS DEAS Sunk — Fishing trawler THOMAS DEAS was mined and sunk this afternoon off Spurn Point.

Tees and Hartlepool were closed at 0230; Hartlepool was reopened in the evening but Tees remains closed. Sunderland was closed at 0345 and Liverpool from 0355 to 1124.

Aberdeen was reopened early this afternoon, but there is a suspected danger area off Girdleness.

A mine exploded spontaneously in the Medway.

Operation Z.M.E. 17. — PLOVER last night laid mines off the Bristol Channel.

/Search of....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.2.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Search of Gap A.

The search of Gap A to locate the source of large numbers of explosive sweep cutters washed ashore on the East Coast was completed today. No mines were swept. Further search is to be made.

North Atlantic & South Atlantic

Consideration is being given to a certain operation. (See Admty. 1934/16, F.O.C.N.A. 1606/17)

Mediterranean

4 Wellingtons bombed Brindisi aerodrome last night.

The arrangements in force for detecting mines laid in the Suez Canal and Lakes are described in S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 2101/16.

Benghasi was bombed last night. Two mines were dropped in the harbour. Brega was also bombed.

Four Swordfish from Malta last night attacked and sank by torpedo an escorted merchant vessel, probably the Italian JUVENTUS (5000 tons) southbound near Kerkenaf Island.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.2.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Troops and supplies are now being moved by sea in connection with the Army advance into Eritrea.

The Chiefs of Staff have explained the importance of the time factor in the liquidation of Italian East Africa (See Admty. 1134/16 to C. in C., Med. and E.I)

China

Minefield off Johore

An area dangerous to navigation was declared today off the S.E. coast of Malaya between the parallels of 2° 44' N., and 1° 35' N., and bounded on the east by the meridian 104° 30' E.

Japanese Submarines

Indications are that there are at least one and probably two squadrons (18 boats) of Japanese submarines in the Mandated Islands.

Precautions

Precautionary measure which are being taken for the protection of British and Allied shipping are described in Admty. 1528/16.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

C.in C. New W.A. Command. C.in C. Plymouth.

A.M.111A2. Admiral Sir Percy Noble will hoist his flag as C.in C. of the New Western Approaches Command at Liverpool at 0900/17. Admiral Sir Martin Dunbar Nasmith will rehoist his flag as C.in C. Plymouth at the same time.
(C.in C. W.A. 1207/16).

Stornoway Sub-Command.

Admiralty 0030/3. Request information whether Stornoway Sub-Command is to be under direct operational and administrative control of C.in C. W.A. or whether it is intended to be included in Greenock Sub-Command.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1214/16).

Exchange of A and B Destroyers.

R.A.D's 1115/15. 4th escort group is at present only short of destroyers. It is most undesirable for ACHATES to be fitted with T.S.D.S. or for ACTIVE to be released without relief. Propose as follows.
(Capt: D. Greenock 1246/16).

Rona Minefield.

A.C.O.S's. 1125/5 and C.in C. Home Fleet's 1403/6. Accident was caused through Sulisker being mistaken for the Flannan Islands, no matter therefore how the Notice to Mariners was worded, the convoy would have run into the minefield.

Action promulgated in 134 QZH should prevent a repetition.

A.T. 2129/6/2 has been issued as further safeguard.

No amendment will be made to Notice to Mariners 1768 (T) of 1940.
(V.C.N.S. 1335/16).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE. At 1130/16.
(D.C. 1141/16).
At 2330/16.
(D.C. 2354/16).

Scapa.
A/A
Defences. Your 1637/19. Understand from movements Scottish Command that Second Eight Bofors (January Production) have now sailed and should have arrived. Please confirm arrival.
(Dacoast Four 1845/16 to A.C.O.S.)

Movements.

AURORA. Sailed Scapa 0038.
(A.C.O.S. 0143/16).

EDINBURGH. Sailed from Scapa 0429/16.
(A.C.O.S.0431/16).

BLYSKAWICA. Sailed.
(N.C.I.C. Aultbea 0856/16).

REPULSE. Your 2309/15. Not possible to receive REPULSE in basin before 0800/19th. Arrival of ship at Rosyth on 17/2 or 18/2 would be advantageous for ascertaining nature of most urgent defects.
(A.S. Rosyth, 1038/16 to C.in C. H.F.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

REPULSE. (Contd.)	Your 2309/15. Request REPULSE be sailed to anchor in B.6. berth at 1230/17. (C.in C. Rosyth 1137/16 to C.in C. H.F.) REPULSE screened by 3 destroyers is to sail for Rosyth at 2100 today. Speed is to be adjusted to anchor in B.6 berth at 1230/17. (C.in C. H.F. 1714/16).
UNBRATEN.	Your 1441/14. Arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1050/16.)
BULOLO.	(Freetown Convoy Escort Force). Your 1928/15. This work cannot be done in the time given in your 1625/7. (N.O.I.C. Glasgow 1145/16).
PANDORA.	Intend to sail PANDORA from Portsmouth at 1830/18 unescorted. Routed as follows. PANDORA enters North Atlantic Station at 1300 B.S.T. 22/2. (S.5. 1215/16).
FURIOUS.	Your 2144/15 and my 1507/14. Completion date is 28/2. Not possible to state yet whether any improvement can be made. If not ship will not be ready to sail before a.m./1/3. (N.O.I.C. Glasgow 1250/16).
MAIDSTONE.	Is required to sail for Gibraltar about 16/2 (A.C.N.S.(H) 1506/16).
KELLY KASHMIR KIPLING.	To proceed Plymouth with all convenient despatch. (C.in C. W.A. 1512/16).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

KELLY
KASHMIR
KIPLING. — Sailed 1800. E.T.A. Plymouth 1700/17. (Capt: D. Londonderry 1844/16).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Lines tonight. 6 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1524/16).

Submarines. — Positions at 0800/17 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1722/16).

Operations.

CACHALOT. — CACHALOT is due to arrive off Sullom Voe on or after 19/2. A trawler will be sailed so as to arrive Sullom Voe 18/2. CACHALOT will carry out procedure outlined in my 1027/24/14 and trawler is to be sailed accordingly. Name of trawler will be signalled later.
(A.C.O.S. 1046/16 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).
(No trace in War Registry).

Patrols sheltering. — All patrols sheltering in harbour owing to weather conditions.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1255/16).

Proposed Operation of Submarine with Home Fleet. — One submarine is required if possible to be ready for an operation with the Home Fleet from 28/19.

2. An Officer will visit tomorrow, to give you full information.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1726/16 to F.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.9.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

S.N.7.B.
A/S
Air
Escort.

My 1310/15 and 1410/15.
Aircraft delayed owing to weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0816/16 to R.A.M.L.)
My 0816/16. A/S air escort is being flown now.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1440/16 to R.A.M.L.)

Patrols.

Patrols being flown today.
STAND. FAIR.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0909/16).

MAJOR and SEIGE postponed on account of weather today.
(C.in C. W.A. 1010/16 to H.Q.F.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

RAMONT
(Bombed
11/2).

My 0959/13/2 para 1.
Fleetwood Trawler RAMONT FD 293 has now broken up and is total loss. Unexploded bomb apparently 250 kgs. not dealt with. Vessel apparently had no valid permit to fish in Moray Firth area and was contravening local and Admiralty Defence Regulations for fishing vessels after sunset at the time she was attacked.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1125/16).

Skegness.

Two small bombs dropped by one aircraft type unknown on Perimeter of establishment 0945/16. No casualties, no damage.
(ROYAL ARTHUR 1245/16).
1st Report. Attacked by low flying Heinkel with machine guns approximately 15 bombs dropped. Fairly extensive damage.
Few casualties.
(ROYAL ARTHUR 1326/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Thames Estuary.	At 0052 single aircraft made moonlight attack on GOLDEN EAGLE near North Shingles Buoy and missed her with a single large bomb. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1245/16).
Convoy F.S.	1 Enemy aircraft shadowing convoy MERIT height 2000 feet my position 55° 16'N., 1° 19'W. (VALOROUS 1255/16). Fighters being sent. (VALOROUS 1304/16).
Chatham.	After raid report for 15th/16th Feb. Details of damage. (C.in C. Nore, 1310/16).
SICYON GLEN MARY.	At 1158/15. Minesweeper Trawler SICYON was attacked by enemy aircraft aircraft wit machine gun fire in Westray Firth. At about 1230/15 S.S. GLEN MARY was also attacked with bombs and machine gun fire close off Sarclet Head, Caithness Lat. 58° 22'N., no damage or casualties, in either case. (A.C.O.S. 1853/16).
Dover Bombed.	On JU 88 dropped three high explosive bombs at about 1350 today near heavy anti-aircraft gun site above Shakespeare Cliff. Six military seriously and thirteen slightly wounded. Damage to military hutments. (V.A.Dover, 2010/16).
ORMONDE (Bombed and Sunk). CHRYSOLITE Attacked.	(M/S Trawler) Sunk at 1830/16 by direct hits of 2 H.E. bombs from enemy A/C recognised as H.E.111, when 090 degrees Cruden Scaurs, 7 miles. ORMONDE, LIGNY and CHRYSOLITE were searching war channel. CHRYSOLITE also attacked, three bombs, near misses, and machine-gunned. Thee

/light

MOST SECRET.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

ORMONDE (Bombed and sunk). CHRYSOLITE attacked. (Contd.)	light casualties - 2nd., Eng., Signalman and cook. ORMONDE sank immediately: no survivors or wreckage seen. LIGNY and ACHPOITE with Peterhead lifeboat searching area. LIGNY not attacked. CHRYSOLITE has landed casualties at Aberdeen. Aircraft flying low, attacked from Eastward flew direct over ORMONDE and CHRYSOLITE, latter heavily engaged her with 12 Pdr. and machine-gun. Aircraft flew back from West over CHRYSOLITE firing machine-gun and last seen heading N.E. only 50 feet from water, leaving heavy black smoke trail. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2237/16).
WHITSHED.	Enemy aircraft bombing. My position 53° 2'N., 1° 45'E. Course 147 degs. Speed 20 knots. (WHITSHED 0445/16). My 0445. No hits. (WHITSHED 0448/16). Being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft, course 160° speed 20 knots, position 53° 38'N., 2° 9'E. (WHITSHED 0527/16).
Convoy F.3.Odd.	1 enemy aircraft 2000 ft. over BOOTY. My position 51° 33'N., 1° 8'E. (Convoy 1136/16). My 1138 2 DO 17's retired to S.W. No Bombs. My 1105 DO 17 retired to E. No Bombs. (Convoy 1147/16).
COTSWOLD.	2 Bombs dropped. No hits. B.6 buoy. (COTSWOLD 1200/16).

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

EMPIRE OTTER. (British Tanker, 4626 Tons). Struck mine 25 miles S.W. Hartland Point.
(EMPIRE OTTER 0025/16).
Mined at 0124/16. Not been reported since. Keep a good look-out and report if seen.
(C.in C. W.A. 1328/16 to Ships).
Search by surface craft and aircraft on 16th has failed to find any trace of her.
(C.in C. W.A. 1904/16 to Admty).
Keep look out for ship's life boats of EMPIRE OTTER between Trevose Head and Pendeen.
(C.in C. W.A. 2104/16 to Ships).
One boat with 17 survivors landed Perranporth. One boat still adrift.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2252/16).

Tees.
Hartlepool. Port of Tees and Hartlepool closed owing to suspected minelaying.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0230/16).
Reference my 0230/16. Port of Hartlepool open. Tees remains closed.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1645/16)
(C.in C. Rosyth 1811/16 to HASTINGS, VORTIGERN).

Sunderland. Port closed owing to suspected minelaying.
(N.O.I.C. Sunderland 0245/16).

Z.M.E. 17. Operation completed.
(PLOVER 0348/16).

Liverpool. Port of Liverpool closed due to suspected enemy minelaying.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0555/16).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Liverpool. (Contd.)	Port of Liverpool is open. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1124/16).
P.W.4.	Your 2220/15/2. Concur. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1102/16 to C.in C. Nore).
Tyne Area.	My 0325/16. Tyne Area Port closed. (C.in C. Rosyth 1129/16 to PELICAN, VALOROUS, F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1137/16.)
Z.M.E. 18.	Particulars. To be carried out on the night of 17/2 or as soon after as practicable. (V.C.N.S. 1214/16).
Aberdeen.	Port of Aberdeen now open but dangerous area suspected with centre 020° 5 1/2 cables Girdleness Lt. House radius 5 cables. (H.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1237/16). My 1237. Port of Aberdeen now open to traffic on North side only of Q.Z.S.161. Ships are to keep strictly to North side of Channel. Request dangerous area due to suspected minelaying in position 020° 3½ ca bles from Girdleness may be promulgated. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1521/16). (C.in C. Rosyth 1811/15) Your [illegible]521/16., and my 1811/15. It is not intended to ask for dangerous area to be promulgated, necessary local action is to be taken to keep shipping to North side of Q.Z.S.161. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1839/16 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)
Thames Estuary.	At 1915/15 a Mine exploded spontaneously near No.7 Medway Buoy. No A/C overhead. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1245/16).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

SOUTHSEA. (Paddle Minesweeper). Mined 240 5.9 cables from North Tyne Pier Light. Beached on Herd Sands. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1427/16).

Sweep of Gap A. Your 1059/11. 1st M/S Flotilla search completed, only three ships sweeping between 001° 56'W and (?000?) 51'W. on sweep to East, and between 001° 07'W. and 002° 03'W. on sweep to West. My 1247/16. One ship reports severed end appears to have been cut. One British H. two and four unidentified floating mines sighted.

Am proceeding in accordance with your 1059/11.
(S.O. 1st M/S F. 2133/16 to C.in C. Rosyth)

THOMAS DEAS. (Fishing Trawler) Sunk at about 1400/16, by underwater explosion in about 2730 Spurn Point Lighthouse 4 miles. No survivors reported.
(F.O. Humber 2200/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

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MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Movements. German W/T suggests a movement from Skaggerack or Bight to northwards. This may be in connection with Convoy of 20 M/V's reported by A/C at 1505/15 in 55° 05' N. 6° 50' E. (D.D.I.C. 1133/16).

Unit off Stavanger. By D/F at 1607/16. Position of unknown enemy unit, probably surface craft, was about 58° 45' N. 4° 30' E. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1739/16 to STURGEON).

Danish Navy. State. (N.A. Stockholm 2125/16).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Suspect ships. List (my 1648/16) (D.T.D. 1816/16).

Coastal Convoys.

F.S.12. My 1450/16. Tyne closed (minelaying), no ships from Tyne will join. Ships for Tyne to be diverted to Tees. (C.in C. Rosyth to VIVIEN, VANITY, 0010/16). No ships will join from Blyth. (C.in C. Rosyth to VIVIEN, VANITY, 0025/16). Tees also closed, ships should continue in convoy to Humber (C.in C. Rosyth, 0323/16, to VIVIEN, VANITY). 10 ships (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0957/16). List (0958/16).

F.S.13. Sailed 2300/15. 18 ships (approx.) (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0113/16) (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1257/16) No ships from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1655/16).

F.N.8. Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0956/16) Arrived 1000/16 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1016/16) Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1729/16) Arrivals. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2358/16.).

E.N.73. 0215/17. Escorts. 29 ships. Codes. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1010/16) Postponed, weather. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2359/16).

W.N.86. List. (N.C.S.O., Clyde, 1029/16) 0922/16, HORNPIPE escorting 6 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1061/16) Asking for trawler to replace SPURS (C.in C. W.A. 2230/16 to A.C.O.S.).

F.S.11. Position, 42 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1112/16) Arrived, exceptions. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1644/16) 3 ships put into Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1730/16) Humber and Wash ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1759/16).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.).

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.O.287.	Sailed PERIWINKLE escort. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1117/16) 0800/17, 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1730/16).
E.N.71.	All 3 ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1130/16).
O.B.C.288.	0100/19, escort GEORGETOWN, etc. 30. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1301/16).
E.N. 72.	E.T.A. Loch Ewe portion 0000/17 (FOXTROT, 1345/16) Position at 1450. (A.C.O.S. 1647/16).
12 M.V's.	Sailing 1630/17, escort RUBY, CORNELIAN (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1515/16).
W.N.U.86.	1630/17, unescorted, 6 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1547/16).
O.B.287.	Sailed 1605/16, 18 ships (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1630/16) List (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1925/16).
F.N.9.	Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1729/16).
E.N.74.	PRIMROSE as additional escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1900/16).
F.N. and F.S.	Additional escorts F.N.10 to 16 and F.S. 14 to 20. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1942/16).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys.

O.G.C.53. 0030/16, escort GLADIOLUS, 16 (9 kites). (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0050/16) List (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1300/16, F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1800/16).

H.X.106. My position at 0200. Spoken to all trawlers and tankers. (MALCOLM, 0221/16) Ships not present at R.V.(list) MALCOLM, 1907/16) Escorts detailed for H.X.U.106, H.X.B.106 H.X.B.C. 106 (MALCOLM 1014/16 amended 0952/17.

O.G.O.53. Sailed 0740/16, escort NORTHERN GEM. 20 ships. (list) (N.C.S.O. Oban 1020/16) E.T.A. amended. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1729/16).

H.X.110. Ships carrying munitions. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1147/15).
Destinations (D.T.D., 1929/16).

H.X.107. Not met. Name of ocean escort not known. (ARROW, 1201/16) Destinations. (D.T.D., 1330/16 1331, 16).

H.X.U.106. Arrivals. (N.C.SO., Aultbea, 1244/16).

S.C.21. YORK CITY to meet. (C.in C. W.A., 1348/16).

O.G.53. Londonderry departures for H.M.S. LEAMINGTON, SABRE, etc. (Capt. D., Londonderry 1445/16).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military Convoys.

CYMBULA, escort. — Your 2259/15 decyphered 0230/16. In accordance with the last sentence of your 1121/11 both ships left CYMBULA at 2300/15. FREESIA now detached should rejoin CYMBULA by 0900/16 in 046° N. 020° 50' W. LONDONDERRY position 0900/16 046° 35' N. 022° 13' W. 170° to meet DEPTFORD. (LONDONDERRY 0400/16 to C.in C. W.A.).

Troop Transports. — Following 7 Troop Transports are due to arrive in U.K. shortly as follows. (D. of S.T. 1924/16).

REPULSE
FURIOUS
STRATHNAVER — Sailing date (D.O.D.(H) 2256/16) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16. 2. 41.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CORYTON. (British, 4553 Tons), Anchored in Skate Roads. Require assistance.(CORYTON 0758/16.)

If possible leave Amble and proceed to assist CORYTON. She has been ashore at Longston. (C. in C. Rosyth 1112/16 to C. Guard, Amble for Tug BULLGER.)

Re my 1112/16, Grounded in Budle Bay, Skate Road with 12 feet of water in engine room. BULLGER unable leave EMPIRE BREEZE.R.N.O. Berwick arranging place salvage pump in pilot vessel to send on board CORYTON when weather permits. (C. in C. Rosyth 1620/16.)

ESCAPADE. Intend sailing ESCAPADE 2000 today. E.T.A. May Island 1000/17. Thence proceeding to Rosyth on one engine approx. speed made good 4 knots. (R.A.D. 1423/16.)

MARAUDER. (Rescue Tug). Defects. Request permission return harbour forthwith. (MARAUDER 1440/16.)

Your 1440/16. Return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1605/16 to MARAUDER.)

WILLIAM HASTIE. (Examination vessel). Grounded in Yinstay Bay (Shapinsay Sound) 2100/15th. Salvage operations today unsuccessful. Further attempt being made tomorrow. Salvage Officer and METINDA in attendance. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall, 1830/16.)

JAMAICA PLANTER. It was necessary to beach JAMAICA PLANTER again this forenoon but it is hoped to float her again to-morrow Monday. Request SKINE may remain at Barry to assist. (F.C.I.C. Cardiff 1845/16.)

/ROBERT.....

MOST SECRET.

16. 8. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.

ROBERT POMEROY.	Twelve miles N.N.W. Whitby Head, Engines broken down, drifting on to beach. Light. (ROBERT POMEROY, Recd. 2259/16.)
	If possible stand by and assist. (HASTINGS 2330/16 to VORTIGERN.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Convoys Gibraltar.

French minesweeper TAPAGEUSE passed Gibraltar eastbound at 0600/14 escorting French M.V's FORT DE DOUAUMONT, 5266 tons, MEDJERDA, 4578 tons, ARCTURUS, 2532 tons and TADORNE, 382 tons (D.O.R 17/2).

French light cruiser LE TERRIBLE passed Gibraltar westbound at 1350/15 escorting French M.V's ASIE, 8561 tons IMERETHIE II, 3713 tons and FELIX HENRI, 2526 tons (D.O.R. 17/2).

North Atlantic.

KENYA.
S.L. 67.

Cancelling Admty 2005/14 para 3. Orders to KENYA (D.O.D.(F) 1222/16 to SHEFFIELD C.S.10) See Operations Volume.

RESOLUTION.

My 1018/15. Weather still unsuitable for sailing RESOLUTION.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1036/16).

EMPIRE TROOPER.

My 1800/4. Basin trial not satisfactory. EMPIRE TROOPER will not now be ready to leave for at least a week probably more.
(F.O.C. N.A. 1542/16 to C. in C. S.A. Admty).

Air Report.

No flying. South West gale.
(200 Group 1700/16).

CORINTHIAN.
CAVINA.
DUNEDIN.
KENYA.
SOBIESKI.
PHOEBE.
FREESIA.
CYMBULA.

(1) CORINTHIAN on patrol 250 miles E.N.E. from Madeira.
(2) CAVINA on patrol 225 miles East of Madeira.
(3) DUNEDIN FORESIGHT FORTUNE escorting troopship KENYA and SOBIESKI, p.c. and s. at 1200/16 038° 00'N. 136° 35'W. 308°. 13 knots, routed through 041° 00'N. 019° 30'W.
(4) PHOEBE E.T.A. Gibraltar 0800/19 course 139° 17 knots.
(5) FREESIA (?direct with) CYMBULA to Ponta Delgada position at 1200/16, 045° 30' N 021° (corrupt group) W. speed 10 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A.1722/16 to SCARBORUUGH).

/TUNA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.(contd).

TUNA, Azores. — TUNA has nothing to report. Submarine reported off Azores on 6/2 and 12/2 was TUNA. (F.O.C.N.A. 1902/16).

AGIOS GEORGIOS. — Greek Ship AGIOS GEORGIOS arrived. She received your 1601/4 via Rugby, please confirm she is ship to be (word ommited) to Freetown as there are four ships of that name. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 2215/16).

South Atlantic.

MALAYA. S.L. 67. KENYA. FAULKNOR. FORESTER. — Convoy S.L. 67 to be escorted by MALAYA. Orders for MALAYA, KENYA, FAULKNOR, FORESTER (D.O.D.(F) 1727/16 to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.). See Operations Volume.

CYMBULA. — Your 1951/10. For GIMBULA read CYMBULA. Ship contains water. (D.T.D. 1816/16 to C. in C. S.A.).

Shipping. — A.M. 2027/14 applies to ships sailing independently and in convoy. (D.T.D. 1928/16 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

Proposed Operations. — (D.C.D.(F) 1934/16 to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.2.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operations Against Italian East Africa.	Importance of time factor. Chiefs of Staff No. 57. (1 S.L. to C. in C's Med and E.I. 1134/16) See Operations Volume.
Rhodes bombed.	1. Egypt. Night 14/15. 2 Wellingtons bombed Lindos Harbour, Rhodes starting fires among buildings. 1 missing, weather bad, and aircraft failed to locate primary target Rhodes harbour. (H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. 1211/16).
Operations in Progress or intended.	C. in C. Med 1228/16. See Mediterranean Volume.
Genoa bombardment 9/2.	Reports on Genoa confirm success of bombardment. Serious damage to Ansaldo and Sampierdarena district. Troopship hit in dock. Wharves and warehouses Calata San Beningo and near oil storage tanks damaged (B.2). Electrical services interrupted. Railways and trams at standstill. First train to Milan left a.m./10 under steam. Gasometer burnt all day. Foundry and industrial quarter badly damaged (D.2) Attack has made deeper impression on Italy than loss of Benghazi (B.2) (D.N.I. 1326/16 to C. in C. Med).
Mining of Suez Canal.	What arrangements are now in force for detecting mines laid in Canal and Lakes? (1. S.L. 1643/16 to S.B.N.O. Canal). Admty 1643/16. 204 observation posts along canal manned by British and Egyptian troops. In addition, existing organisation of coastguards and Canal Company watchers continues. Three floating observation posts in Little Bitter Lake and two in buoyed channel of Great Bitter Lake will be in position p.m./17. Watch is kept by ships at Lake Timsah and in terminal port by Egyptian police. 2. A buoyed searched channel has been established between North and South buoys Great Bitter Lake. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 2101/16).

/Malta.....

War Diary.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Malta Air Raids.

2315/15 1 enemy aircraft dropped 3 bombs on land 1 of which unexploded. No service damage or casualties. 0759 2 formations 6 in each Me. 109's flew over at 9000 feet.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1730/16).

S.O. Aircraft Carriers.

Capt. D.W.Boyd appointed with rank of acting Rear-Adm. to relieve Rear-Adm. A.L. St. G.Lyster as S.O. Aircraft Carriers Mediterranean Fleet, Flag to be hoisted in EAGLE at 0800/18 and transferred to ILLUSTRIOUS at 0800/19. Flag of Rear-Adm. Lyster to be struck in ILLUSTRIOUS at sunset on 18/2. Comdr. G.S. Buck with acting rank of Captain appointed ILLUSTRIOUS in command and as C.S.O. to S.O. Aircraft Carriers vice Boyd to date 18/2.
(C. in C. Med. 1757/16).

Convoy A.N. 15.

My 1703/14. Destination of EOCENE is Suda Bay.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1803/16)

Mine Clearance.

My 1803/10/1. Confirmed by trials that L.L. sweepers will clear Mines A Mark 1 in one operation by following the instructions in C.B. 4063/41 modified as follows.
(D.T.M. 1857/16 to C. in C. Med).

Transports.

Fully requisitioned T.99A store transports sailed U.K. with Army, Navy and R.A.F. stores:-

CEFN-Y-BRYN.

Speed 10 knots sailed 10/2 for Durban for bunkers, Port Said, and Alexandria.

HANNINGTON COURT.

Speed 10½ knots sailed 10/2 for Capetown for bunkers, Port Said, Alexandria and Haifa.
(D. of S.T. 1942/16 to C. in C's etc).

Operation "Result".

Inquiry re mines dropped at Pisa and Leghorn
(1st. S.L. 2319/16 to S.O. Force H)
See Mediterranean Volume.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.2.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

GRIMSBY, SHOREHAM, INDUS, HINDUSTAN — Cancel my 1035/15 (Concerning transfer) Matter still under consideration by Gov. of India. Understand Viceroy referring to Sec. of State. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0514Z/16 to Admty., etc.)
My 2052/15. Cancel transfer of HINDUSTAN and INDUS to Mediterranean for the present in view of F.O.C.R.I.N's 0514/16. (C. in C., E.I., 1126Z/16 to S.N.O. Red Sea)

BARPETA — My 1132/7, BARPETA sailed Bombay 14/2 due Aden 21/2. Contents. (S.S.T.O., India, 0605Z/16)

Enemy Vessels in Yemeni Waters. — Proposed action against. Remarks on Governor Aden's 93 to Colonial Secretary. (C. in C., E.I., 0614Z/16 to Admty) See Operations Volume.

CARTHAGE — CARTHAGE is to leave Colombo at 1100Z/17 and sweep towards position 003° 068° 30' E at 15 knots. Object protection of shipping. (C. in C., E.I., 0702Z/16)

Operation "Canvas" — Special intelligence reports that bomber five landed south of Massawa 12/2 with two officers one rating injured. FORMIDABLE 1614/13/2 (Attack on Massawa by 14 Albacores) refers. (C. in C., E.I., 0804Z/16 to Admty.)

Captured Italian Ships — Proposals for steaming to Bombay or U.K. (C. in C., E.I., 1136Z/16) See Operations Volume.

Air Report Kismayu, Mogadiscio, Omo River. — Operational summary No 251 up to 1200 hours 16/2/41.
(4) Kenya. Following S.A.A.F. operations support our troops in Italian Somaliland and South West Abyssinia.
13/2. Glenn Martin reconnoitred Kismayu and Mogodiscio and machine-gunned 5 CA 133's on Vittorio landing ground. 1 ship scuttled Kismayu. Coaster beached off [illegible]. 3 Ra[illegible] [illegible] off Mogadiscio. [illegible]ions in Omo River Delta. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1214/16

/Re East.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.2.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Re East African Operations	Chiefs of Staff No 57. Importance of time factor. (1st S.L. 1134/16) See Operations Volume.
Escort Vessels	Admty. 0116/15 and my 2052/15. Remarks re further reduction of convoy escorts by transfers to Mediterranean. (C. in C., E.I., 1240/16 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.
GLASGOW	Request GLASGOW be sailed for Durban at 20 knots on completing with fuel 18/2. (C. in C., E.I., 1252Z/16 to S.N.O. Red Sea)

China

Japanese Movements	My 0311/13. Indications that at least one Japanese submarine squadron and probably two (eighteen submarines) are now in Mandated Islands. Other movements of Japanese warships consistent with their present commitments in French Indochina and Thailand. No indications in last 48 hours of any change in situation. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0509Z/16)
Shipping	Japan or Japanese controlled ports. Precautions. (D.T.D. 1528/16) See Operations Volume.
Japanese Troop Convoy	American A.N.A. informs me that Officers of PRESIDENT CLEVELAND which arrived Kobe 12/2 reported sighting on 11/2 convoy of 25 Japanese transports fully loaded with troops escorted by warships between Shimonoseki and Shanghai steering South. (N.A., Tokyo, 1831/16 to Admty.) (Note. Amended 17/2)

MOST SECRET

16.2.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

NEW NORTHLAND	Your 1930/15. Ship is to be sailed for Freetown as soon as essential repairs are completed. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0932/16 to N.O.I.C., Trinidad)
T.C. 9.	Admty. 1832/6 and 1932/7. T.C.9. expected to sail 1800Z/17. Route. Request relief for ROYAL SOVEREIGN. (Date and position) (R.A. 3 B.S. 1625/16) See Operations Volume
ASCANIA S.C. 23.	Intend sailing ASCANIA as ocean escort? S.C. 23 subsequently returning to Halifax (F.O. 3 B.S. 1626/16 to Admty.)
LACONIA SAN AMADO	Have only sufficient fuel and am returning to base. At 1200/16 Tanker SAN AMADO p.c. and s 060° 22' N., 024° 46' W., 064° eight knots, (route) (LACONIA, 2000/16 to C. inC., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.2.1941.
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LARISSA — Istanbul departure 15/2 LARISSA.(Galata, 1024/16)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

COSCO — See Mediterranean

LEONARDO DA VINCI — My 0236/15.* Ex Italian ship LEONARDO DA VINCI has also arrived Mombassa. (C. in C., E.I., 0402Z/16 to Admty.)
*(Operation "Canvas")
Proposals for steaming captured ships to Bombay (C. in C., E.I., 1136Z/16) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.2.1941.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Unknown Ship Attacked 0240/14)

Your 2148/15. My noon position 056° 40' N., 009° W., Searching in company with SALVONIA. Oil fuel remaining 100 tons. (SOUTHERN PRIDE, 1025/16 to F.O.I.C., Greenock)
Endeavour to pass current recognition signals for periods after 2359/16 to SOUTHERN PRIDE by V/S. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1819/16 to SALVONIA)

W.B.WALKER (Toepedoed 29/1)

-Your 2330/15. Continue search in vicinity St. Kilda. Air search will be carried out today. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0113/16 to St. OLAVES, MARAUDER)
If contact has not been made with unknown ship SOUTHERN PRIDE and SALVONIA are to rendezvous with ST OLAVES in 230° 5 miles from Flannan Light at 0800/17 and search for Stern half of W.B. WALKER. ST OLAVES is to be in this position by 0800.
W.B. WALKER was last reported in 58° 15' N., 09° 01' W., at 1445/13. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1707/16)
Position Borera 098° 6 Miles. Acknowledge your 1707/16. (ST OLAVES 2050/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
Your 1707. Acknowledged. Cannot arrive? Rendezvous? Before 1400/17. (SALVONIA 2100/16 to F.O.I.C., Greenock)
My 1707/16. SALVONIA cannot reach R.V. until 1400/17. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2237/16 to ST OLAVES)

Submarines Reported

There may be a U-Boat in your vicinity. (A.C.O.S., 1249/16 to ROMNEY)
Get in sweeps. Carry out A/S search up to a distance of 40 miles for a U-Boat located by D/F bearing 041° from Pola. If no contact is obtained by 1600 return to harbour. (A.C.O.S. 1309/16 to ROMNEY)

/Estimated....

MOST SECRET

16.2.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat dispositions. Italian. One off entrance Gironde. (F.O. (S) 1524/16 to TIGRIS)

1337. D/F at 1337/16 indicates U-Boat between 48° N., and 50° N., longitude unknown but estimated between 27° W., and 33° W., (D.D.I.C., 1649/16)

1816. About 56.30 N., 20° to 22° W., very indefinite. (D.S. 531)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.2.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Division of Western Approaches Command

Admiral Sir Percy Noble hoisted his flag this morning as C. in C., of the new Western Approaches Command. Admiral Sir Martin Dunbar Nasmith rehoisted his flag as C. in C., Plymouth at the same time.

A/S Operations

It is intended to operate A/S striking forces in cooperation with the R.A.F. against enemy submarines which have appeared in the important area about 60° N., where SS ARTHUR F CORWIN was torpedoed on 13/2.

Enemy Air Operations

Invergordon Oil Fuel Main Depot was bombed this morning by a single aircraft. One oil tank was demolished and two damaged, Fire was not opened and no warning was given. The Admiralty have asked Air Ministry to investigate.

Trawler NANIWA was sunk today about 115 miles N.W. of Bull Rock, S.W. Ireland.

Mining

Trawler BEN REIN was mined and sunk off Falmouth today.

Mines were detonated off Liverpool, Campbeltown (port closed again), Milford Haven, in Bristol Channel and mines (including British) were sunk at sea or rendered safe off Aberdeen.

/Operations.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.2.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Operations S.N. 7 B and S.N. 68 A

R.A.M.L. This afternoon reported these operation completed (Minelaying south east of Iceland by 1st M.L.S. with A/S screen of 4 destroyers. Close cover - AURORA. Cover - REPULSE)

Mediterranean

Air Operations

Enemy aircraft were over Malta last night until the early hours of this morning, for the eleventh successive night. No bombs were dropped.

Enemy aircraft bombed the Benghazi area last night.

One Wellington out of 4 despatched from Egypt bombed Scarpanto Aerodrome last night.

Military Assistance to Greece.

See P.S.T.O. Egypt 1247/17.

Operation "Blunt"

YORK, BON AVENTURE and destroyers are supporting this operation until the anticipated time of occupation.

Operations against Italian Supply Ships.

C. in C., Med reports that on 12/2 UTMOST attacked a westbound escorted convoy of 3 ships in 32° 54' N., 12° 9' E., and hit an 8000 ton merchant ship which was seen 4 hours later with stern awash and abandoned by the escort.

Information was received today that TRUANT sank a 350 tons ship in a convoy of two proceeding escorted from Tripoli on the afternoon 11/2. Three Swordfish on patrol attacked an unescorted convoy of 4 ships off Kerkenah Island on night 13/14 and believed they sank one ship. At 1130/14 the Italian SS COSCO was heard making S.O.S. off Cape Orzuto; the ship evidently sank.

/Attacks.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.2.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Attacks on the Tripoli-Italy route during the last 4 weeks by air and submarines have resulted in 5 ships being sunk for certain and 2 almost certainly. In addition, one was mined off harbour entrance. All these ships were over 3000 tons, except CITTA DI MESSINA (sunk 15/1 off Misurata, most probably by REGENT)

8

East Indies

Operation "Canvas"

The present position of the 16 ships from Kismayu as far as known to date is as follows:- ADRIA, SAVOIA, ERMINIA MAZELLA, MANON and LEONADO DA VINCI are at Mombasa. ASKARI is aground 7 miles south of Brava, MARCHERA MONCALIERI (?) and two unknown scuttled in Kismayu. One, probably PENSILVANIA at Mogadishu. UCKERMARK sunk. TANNENFELS escaped. Tug KIONGA whereabouts not known but cannot have gone far. Two ships are unaccounted for.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Destroyers.

R.A.D. 1115/15. In view of serious shortage of destroyers in Western Approaches I most strongly urge that Capt. D. Greenock 1246/16 be complied with.
(C. in C. W.A. 0204/17 to Adty).
Your 0204.
1. This is a matter for arrangement with C. in C. H.F. R.A.(D)'s 1115/15, however, appears equitable.

2. Whilst Western Approaches recently has had an appreciable gain in their number of destroyers, C. in C. H.F. has had no such accretion of strength.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1527/17 to C. in C. W.A).
Captain D. Greenock's 1246/16. Concur in proposals 2 and 3.
With reference to proposal 1 it may not be possible to release BRILLIAN without relief, but she will join your command as early as circumstances permit.
2. Request your remarks on proposals A and C. of R.A.D's 1115/15 in which I concur.
(C. in C. H.F. 1717/17 to C. in C. W.A).
Your 1717/17. Concur in proposals H. and C. of R.A.D's 1115/15. And I am grateful for your concurrence in 2 and 3 of Captain D. Greenock's 1246/16.
My 0204/17 was prompted by the knowledge that Western Approaches Destroyers inevitably constitute the principal reserve from which destroyers are drawn for unexpected commitments. In view of the large number of these undergoing or awaiting repairs and the exceptionally heavy demands which have to be met at the end of the month, I feel bound to press for "B" Class to join at earliest possible moment consistent with Home Fleet requirements.
(C. in C. W.A. 2316/17 to C. in C. H.F).

Anti U-Boat Measures.

Proposed hunting operations. (C. in C. W.A. 0210/17 to C. in C. H.F.).
See U-Boat Campaign.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. — At 1130/17 (D.C. 1159/17).
At 2330/17 (D.C. 2345/17).

Movements.

0.23. — If you cannot make Tay Bar proceed into Methil. Proceed on main motor only when west of line joining Elieness and Fidra.
(S.9. 0817/17 to 0.23).

REPULSE. — Owing to weather Dan buoys in QZS 175 are not in position.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0825/17 to REPULSE).
S.E. Gate vessel Inch Keith is riding by stern moorings only and reported dragged in S.W. direction from correct position.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1018/17 to REPULSE).

ALCANTARA. — Admiralty 2144/15. Ship cannot sail earlier than p.m. 28/2 and bad weather may involve delay beyond that date.
(F.O.I.C. Southampton 1217/17).

RODNEY
A/S screen. — C. in C. H.F. 1207/17. MATABELE, (?TARTAR), ESKIMO detailed.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1514/17).

Northern
Patrol. — Trawler Lines tonight. 3 to 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1521/17).

CANTON. — (Freetown Escort Force) Your 1626/11.
CANTON is to be sailed for Freetown when A/S escort can be provided.
(D.O.D.F. 1532/17 to F.O.C.N.P).

CHITRAL.
RESTIGOUCHE.
ASSINIBOINE. — Sailed CHITRAL escorted by RESTIGOUCHE in accordance with F.O.C.N.P's 1146/14. ASSINIBOINE will be sailed to overtake when A/S defects have been made good.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1555/17).

S/M's. — Positions at 0800/18 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1744/17).

L.27. — My 0905/16. Sailed.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1804/17).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Helder.
Zeebrugge.
Hellevoetsluis.
Middleburg.
Ouddorp.

During day 16/2 five Blenheims attacked Docks and Sheds; also Ships and Barges south of Ouddorp, where some hits were seen.
(H.Q.B.C. 0153/17 to Air Ministry).

Escorts.

Expect A/S escort 1 Hudson 0930.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0854/17 to REPULSE).

Expect Air escort of one aircraft from 1100 today.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0938/17 to Capt. D.20).

Patrols.

Following air patrols to-day.
S.T.A.N.
B.E.R.T.
S.T.A.N.D.
U.N.S.T.
Also patrol detailed in my 1310/15.
All the above are in operation now.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0940/17).

Own A/C fired on, 10/1.

My 0817/15. S.O.T.L.D.F. now reports as follows:- At 0147/10/1 ARISTROCRAT in about 5 cables 240 from Nore L.V. opened fire with Pom Poms on low flying A/C which disappeared to the N.W. after making correct Pyrotechnic recognition signals.
Plane appeared to appeared to approach from Southward over Kent Coast and was clearly seen for a few seconds before fire was opened but type could not be distinguished. Adty 1633/14 refers.
(C. in C. Nore, 1035/17).

Enemy M/V's off Sogne Fiord.

3 Beauforts armed with torpedoes taking off from Wick now to search for and attack enemy shipping off Sogne Fiord.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1206/17 to C. in C.H.F).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Invergordon bombed.	Invergordon O.F. Main Depot bombed by single enemy aircraft at 1140. No 13 Tank demolished and railway line flooded with oil fuel now leaking into Firth West of railway station. No fire. Nos. 14, 15 and 17 tanks damaged and leaking. Believe two casualties, men working near 13 Tank. Enemy then machine gunned R.A.F. Camp, a Sunderland aircraft at moorings, and A/P Trawler alongside coal hulk. No warning received and no A.A. fire opened. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1227/17). My 1227/17 No casualties. Details of damage. Enemy aircraft was Junkers 88 flying at 50 feet over tanks. It entered Cromarty Firth between Sutors flying 100 feet above sea under low cloud. Visibility three miles. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1650/17).
Unknown Ship.	Attacked one mile off Humber Light. (Humber Radio 1352/17).
ST. VINCENT. bombed 11/2.	1. Trawler ST. VINCENT Bombed and machine gunned by Dark Green 4 Engined Plane while fishing South of Fastnet 1530 B.S.T. 11/2. Only slight damage and no casualties.
TINA NUTTEN attacked 10/2.	2. Trawler TINA NUTTEN Machine Gun by Dornier 215 while fishing 18 miles S.E. Fastnet 1500 B.S.T. 10/2. No hits. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1631/17).
WAZIRISTAN. (Bombed 2/2).	Extensive damage which cannot be repaired by local resources. Tug will be required to tow ship to repair port. Expect ship ready to leave 26/2. (C.S.V.O. Scapa 2130/17).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

EMPIRE OTTER. (Mined 16/2).	A good look out is to be kept for survivors. One boat is still missing. (C. in C. Plymouth 0728/17 to Capt. D.5, 1048/17 to Capt D. 20). Life boats from EMPIRE OTTER located in 051° 08'N. 005° 10'W. at 1211/17. Motor Launches from Milford Haven being sent. (C. in C. Plymouth 1350/17). Cancel my 1350. Survivors picked up by CORNELIAN now proceeding to Milford Haven. (C. in C. Plymouth 1836/17). Arrived CORNELIAN with 19 survivors. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2045/17).
Liverpool. (5 Mines detonated).	Mine report to 1800/16. One detonated by L.L. 200 Bar L.V. 5 cables. 3 self detonated approx. 290° Bar L.V. 16 miles. One self detonated 180° Bar L.V. 4 cables. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0941/17).
P.W.5.	Operation PW.5. should take place within 3 hours of high water. It should therefore be carried out on first night after 19/2 on which weather is suitable. (C. in C. Nore 1148/17).
6th M/S F.	As 1st M.S.F. is delayed by weather, sailing of 6 M.S.F. is to be postponed till 18/2. (C. in C. Nore 1254/17).
Minelaying off Brest.	A.L. M/OD 2019/41 of 13.2.41 para. 3. Propose to move position of operation A as follows:- Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S.H. 1349/17). A.L. M/O.D. 2019/41 of 13/2 and your 1349/17. Request I may be informed of position and type of mines which I understand are being laid tonight. (C. in C. Plymouth 1918/17 to Adty). Your 1349/17. Concur. (C. in C. Plymouth 1920/17 to Adty). Your 1918/17. Type A Mark I within the limits of 276 Q Z X. (D.D.O.D.M. 2305/17 to C. in C. Plymouth).

/Operations.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Operations, S.N.7B. S.N. 68 A.	Completed. (R.A.M.L. 1432/17).
Campbeltown.	Campbeltown again closed. Additional mines suspected. One destroyed this forenoon. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1545/17).
Sweeps between Kinnairds Head and Duncansby Head.	Commencing at 2100/19 available ships of M.S.F. are to carry out the following searching of sweeps returning afterwards to Aberdeen. (C. in C. Rosyth 1601/17 to M.S.5.).
Milford Haven.	At 1120/17 one Green Mine exploded by Sweeper in 070° St. Ann's Head Light 15.25 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1607/17).
BEN REIN.	Mined and sunk off Falmouth. Believed five survivors of whom three injured. Two men lost. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1830/17).
Bristol Channel.	Red mine detonated by single L 051° 22.1 North 003° 25.5. West. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1846/17).
Aberdeen sub-command.	Mines sunk at sea 4: 1 German, 3 unknown. Mines rendered safe 2: 1 British H2 Mark 2, 1 German X. O.E.F. Demolished 10. Cylindrical floats washed shore 6. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1921/17).
Sweep of Gap A.	My 1059/11 M.S. one's 1247/16 and 2211/16 and M.S. Five's 0110/17. Intend at favourable opportunity to arrange further search by 5th M.S.F. as follows. (C. in C. Rosyth 2230/17 to C. in C. H.F).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Amstelmeer. Hellevoetsluis. Veere Zeebrugge.	M/V's and Barges seen on 16/2. (H.Q.B.C. 0153/17 to Air Ministry).
Barges off Stavanger.	At 0938/17, 17 Transport Barges in 58° 49'N. 5° 22'E. No set course. A/C report. (Bomber Command 0955/17 to 18 Group H.Q). 12 Transport Barges in 59° 27'N. 5° 9'E. (Bomber Command 1005/17).
E-Boat.	E boat may possibly be operating within 60 miles Start Point. (C. in C. Plymouth 2208/17).

MOST SECRET.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal
Convoys.

E.N.73.	Postponed, weather. (C.in C. Rosyth, 0009/17). HOLDERNESS as additional A/A escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1220/17.) Time, escorts, codes, 21 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1313/17).
W.N.86.	FOWEY additional A/A escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 0009/17). BUTTERMERE and WINDERMERE to meet. (A.C.C.S. 0015/17).
O.B.C.287.	0125/17,10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0135/17). List. (0927/17). Left, List. (Berthing off, Greenock T.O.R. 2035/17).
F.S.12.	E.T.A. Sherringham. (VIVIEN, 0256/17). Position. (VIVIEN, 1300/17). Position 6 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1600/17). Arrived except BUSIRIS. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1907/17).
F.N.10.	BASSETT escorting. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 0842/17). Sailed 0842, 34 ships. (1047/17). List. (1516/17).
O.B.288.	0700/19, unescorted. 1. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0915/17).

MOST SECRET.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

W.N.85.	33 ships, positions. (A.C.C.S. 0955/17, 1442/17). E.T.A. (STELLA CAPELLA, 1600/17).
F.S.13.	16 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0944/17).
E.N.U.72.	Arrived 1115/17. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1130/17).
F.S.14.) F.N.13.)	Cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1137/17).
W.N.87.	ULLSWATER and SALTERELO escorting. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1211/17). GLEANER and SLEIPNER additional escorts. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1343/17).
O.B.O.287.	Sailed 0740/17, escort PERIWINKLE, 3 ships. (list). (N.C.S.O. Oban, 0835/17).
C.W.26.	Time table. Escorts. 7 ships. (C.in C. Nore, 1130/17).
E.N.74.	PRIMROSE additional escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 1317/17). GLEANER and SLEIPNER additional escorts. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1343/17).

MOST SECRET.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.287.	Sailed WITCH to overtake. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1320/17).
E.N.72.	Arrived less CORTES. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1648/17).
F.N.9.	Arrived 1615/17. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1654/17). (C.in C. Rosyth, 2355/17).
O.B.288.	Oversea ships of E.N.75 to sail to Loch Ewe to join O.B.288 at 1600/20. (C.in C. W.A. 1725/17). PICOTEE sailed to join. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1837/17).
F.N. and F.S.	Forecast of sailings. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1745/17).
W.N.U.86.	1930/17 unescorted, 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 2119/17). List. (2141/17).
F.N.86.	FOWEY left to meet. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2355/17).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys.

H.O.53. May have been reported by U/Boat, which may lead to Air Attack.
(D.D.I.C. 0933/17 to DEPTFORD).

H.X.P.106. My 1914/16. For SARDONYX read BURNHAM.
(MALCOLM, 0952/17).

S.C.22. My 1548/16. Estimate 4 hours early at R/V.
(C.in C. W.A. 1043/17).

B.H.X.111. List.
(Navy Control, Bermuda, 1201/17).

H.X.U.106. Arrived. 1130/17 less CLEA.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1410/17).

H.X.108. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty.
(D.T.D. 1613/17).

H.O.53. Meet. List.
(C.in C. W.A. 1915/17 to LEAMINGTON, SABRE, etc.)

H.X.106. My 1914/16. If 2 Stragglers reported not far astern of H.X.106 16/2 are not found by 1900/17 propose KINGCUP leave vicinity of Butt of Lewis and return to Londonderry. No information of other Stragglers being near convoy 16/2.
(MALCOLM, 0721/17).
No stragglers found. Am proceeding through Minches at 0930. If sighted will endeavour to obtain information from aircraft.
(KINGCUP 0800/17 to MALCOLM).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military.
Convoys.

STRATHNAVER.	Probably sailing 22/2. Particulars. (D.S.T. 0116/17). See Operations Volume.
BATORY.	Probably sailing 28/2. Particulars. (D.S.T. 0116/17). See Operations Volume.
T.C.9.	My 1335/13/1 and 1932/7. Cruiser detailed to relieve ROYAL SOVEREIGN should accompany Convoy to Clyde Area. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1338/17).
W.S.6.B.	Sailed HESPERUS and HURRICANE escorting Liverpool portion of W.S.6.B. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1500/17).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.2.1941.
Monday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

EMPIRE KNOLL — (British, 2823 tons) Ashore North Tynemouth Pier. (Lyness W/T 0148/17)
Crew 32 in all - rescued by life saving apparatus. (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 0607/17)

ROBERT POMEROY — Anchored about 055° 34' N., 00° 33' W., Repairs to main engine are proceeding and she can now go slow speed. (VALOROUS 0206/17)
Cannot locate ROBERT POMEROY. Am re-joining convoy. (VORTIGERN, 0302/17 to HASTINGS)

CASAMANCE — (British, 5817 tons) Ashore 1-1/2 miles South of Skiningrove. 37 of crew landed in own boats. 10 still on board. Rescue being attempted by breeches buoy and life boat. (N.O.I.C., Hartlepool, 1253/17)
Ashore at Hummersea near Redcar from F.S. 13. 37 of crew have been landed remaining 10 being taken off by lifeboat. (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 1301/17)

FORTH — Admiralty 2249/15. Full speed is 16 knots because of time out of dock. (FORTH 0757/17)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

H.G. 53. Survivors, from Air Attack 9/2.

Survivors from following ships attacked by aircraft on 9/2, in Convoy H.G. 53, have been landed at Gibraltar, BRITANNIC, 2490 tons, 3 (1 injured) JURA, 1759 tons, 10 (2 injured), TEJO (Norwegian) 967 tons, 11 (2 injured), DAGMAR 1, 2471 tons, 1 believed more survivors may be in other ships. (D.S. 531).

Sunderland.

My 2230/15. Lisbon now reports Sunderland force landed near Setubal and that crew are safe. (F.O.C.N.A., 0016/17, to Admty). See 1720/17.

SHEFFIELD. S.L. 65. escort.

Arrived Gibraltar 0800/17 (S.O.I. Gib., 0900/17).
Admty 2005/14 para 2 and 1755/15.
SHEFFIELD sails 0900/18, to relieve KENYA.
Request you instruct SHEFFIELD when to part company from S.L. and S.L.S. 65, and return to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1708/17 to Admty).

RESOLUTION.

My 1036/16. Weather not yet suitable (for sailing). (F.O.C.N.A., 0948/17, to C. in C. W.A).

Raider Attack on S.L.S. 64 12/2, ships sunk. *

My 1644/14. It now appears fairly certain that British ships WARLABY, LORNASTON, OSWESTRY GRANGE, SHREWSBURY, WESTBURY, DERRYNANE, Norwegian ship BORGESTAD and Greek ship PERSEUS were sunk. British ships NAILSEA LASS and EMPIRE TRACEY (?EMPIRE ENERGY) Norwegian Ships VARANGBERG and BUR and Greek ship KALLIOPI, were separated from convoy and may be safe. *
(N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1217/17 to Admty).
(W.D. Note:- LORNASTON in above list of ships lost subsequently arrived at Azores, reducing total of ships lost from 8 to 7.

Further interviews with survivors in boats and on rafts indicate that raider

/was.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

was camouflaged. Also confirms second turret aft. Two officers of watch think in retrospect that they heard drone of aeroplane about 2300 - 2315/11. (N.O.S.O. Funchal, 1747/17.)

TUNA. — Admty. 1214/15. Instructions to TUNA. (F.O.(S) to F.O.C.N.A, 1243/17.)

MALAYA. — Your 0115/15 not received by me or MALAYA until 1130/17, when a copy was received from SHEFFIELD. Nevertheless MALAYA can comply. (F.O.C.N.A, 1251/17, to Admty.)

Proposed Operation. — Reply to Admty. 1934/16. (F.O.C.N.A., 1606/17.) See Operations Volume.

DUNEDIN. — If present fine weather continues E.T.A, at rendezvous, about 6 hours late making good 13½ knots. Submit position of R.V. be altered to southwards to ensure meeting in daylight on 20/2. (DUNEDIN, 17182/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

Air Report. — No flying. Weather. My A.489 15/2, Sunderland force-landed in Portugal 1230/15. (200 Group, 1720/17.)

RESOLUTION. — My 0948/17, and Admty. 0115/15 just received. Other destroyer commitments now necessitate postponement RESOLUTION sailing for several days. (F.O.C.N.A., 1800/17, to C. in C. W.A.)

AGIOS GEORGIOS. — Your 2215/16, confirm AGIOS GEORGIOS, 4248 gross tons, is now for Freetown. (D.T.D. 1836/17 to Consul, St. Vincent, C.V.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.2.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

French Seaplane.	Your 1122/12 (C.in C. A. and W.I. message, French Naval seaplane to join Free French). Seaplane and three airmen proceeding to Africa in NEW NORTH LAND see S. of S's telegram 15/2 to Trinidad Governor and you. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1023/17, to Admty.).
NORTHERN PRINCE.	Overdue shipping, NORTHERN PRINCE due Capetown about 14/2 from Gibraltar not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1121/17).
SCOTTISH TRADER "Q" Report.	Your 1106/30/1 and S.O.I. Capetown's 1046/28/1 Master's report. (D.T.D. 1150/17 to C.in C. S.A.).
EMPIRE TROOPER.	F.O.C.N.A. 1542/16. Arrival with W.S.6. improbable. Suggesting DOMINION MONARCH be used instead. (C.in C. S.A., to Admty. 1233/17).
COMORIN S.L.66.	COMORIN to escort S.L.66 till (date) then proceed Greenock in accordance my 1905/8/2. (C.in C. S.A., 1329/17).
CALLIOPE	Panamanian CALLIOPE which left Magallanes 4/2 for Buenos Aires has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1800/17).
DRAGON	Sailed 1800/17th. (Director of Nigerian Marine, Lagos, 1830/17).
Convoy.	Pointe Noire advises convoy cannot sail from there until 21/2 earliest. CAPO OLMO broke down. Freetown pass to DRAGON (ship ?) has sailed from Lagos. (N.C.S.O. Duala 1830/17).

/ BULOLO, ... ballast

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

BULOLO, ballast — Your 1143/16. Can wood Ballast be removed and steel drums mentioned in (11) of Admty. 1928/15 be re-stowed in eight days? If not request time to complete. (C. in C. S.A. 2145N/17, to N.O.I.C.Glasgow).

CORFU — My 1133/17/1. Owing to repairs found necessary at Lagos etc., arrival of CORFU at Calcutta will be delayed. (Probable date) (C.in C. S.A., 2235N/17 to C.in C. E.I.).

DELHI — My 1709/13. Refit at Singapore cancelled. To be retained in Cape Area. (V.C.N.S. 2360/17 to C.in C. S.A.). See Operations Volume.

Mediterranean.

Constanza, Mine Zone. — Bucharest broadcast announces danger zone off Constanza (details). Extension 8 miles eastward of an area declared on 30/6/40. (D.S. 531).

W.S.5A. — Convoy W.S.5A arrived Suez 16/2.

B.N.15. — Convoy B.N.15 less CITY OF ROUBAIX arrived Suez 16/2. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 0937/17, to Admty.etc.)

/ German naval preparations in Rumania. ....

War Diary. 17.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

German naval preparations in Rumania.

Following from Reporting Officer Constantza now here
(a) German Naval personnel in plain clothes housed on two floors of Palace Hotel Constantza.
(b) Every indication Germans will take over submarine DOLFIN also new GALATZ submarines of which first nearing completion and probably other Roumanian fleet units.
(c) Depot ship at Constantza expected to proceed to Sulina shortly to await first Galatz Submarine. Depot ship has embarked three 4.7 guns.
(d) Destroyer KING FERDINAND has had her 4.7 armament and torpedo tubes replaced by German. MARASTI and MARASESTI believed guns also replaced.
(e) 250 German torpedoes reported arrived and stored in naval store on East breakwater.
(f) No confirmation of reports from our and Polish secret sources of presence of German Vedettes at Constantza. Possibly some on Danube. (Wolffson, Beyoglu 1200/17).

Italian M.V's sunk by Swordfish, UTMOST, REGENT.

V.A. Malta reports four Swordfish attacked an escorted merchant vessel southbound near Kerkenaf (? Kerkenah) Island on night of 15/16. Ship probably Italian JUVENTUS, 5,000 tons, was sunk by torpedo.
2. On 12/2 UTMOST attacked a westbound escorted convoy 3 ships in 032° 54' N., 012° 09' E. One hit obtained on 8,000 tons merchant ship. Heavy counter attack with bombs and depth charges. Ship still afloat 4 hours later but stern awash and deserted by escort.
3. Now fairly certain it was REGENT who sank CITTA DI MESSINA of Misurata on 15/1.
4. Attacks on Tripoli - Italy route in last 4 weeks by air and submarines have resulted in 8 ships being sunk for certain, 2 almost certainly. In addition one struck a mine off harbour entrance. All ships over 3,000 tons except CITTA DI MESSINA.
(C.in C. Med., 1215/17, to Admty.).

Military Convoy.

For Greece. Proposals. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1247/17 to D. of S.T., C.in C. Med.)
See Mediterranean Volume.

/ COLD HARBOR ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

COLD HARBOR (U.S. Red Cross Ship). COLD HARBOR is making additional call at Seville, Spain, and is unlikely to arrive at Marseilles before about 12/3. (Air Ministry 1440/17 to A.O.C. in C. M.E. etc.).

Minesweepers Required. Small craft suitable for magnetic minesweeping are hard to find in Eastern Mediterranean, but search continuing. Proposals. (C.in C. Med., 1535/17, to Admty.)
Vessels suitable for equipping with Mark 5 LL sweep urgently required in Eastern Meditn. Request report if any can be made available.
(C.in C. Med., 1721/17 to N.O.I.C. Durban.).

Combined services Report Malta up to 1700 hours. 17/2. All times G.M.T.
Eleventh successive night this island raided until early hours of the morning. About 12 raiders carried out individual flights over Malta. No bombs dropped. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1718/17).

Mine Explosions and Sweeping. My 0123/15 and 2234/15 Mine No. 1 B exploded one cable to Westwards of position given. Mine exploded about one cable astern of a Skid towed by drifter at time drifter was firing a burst of Lewis gun into water. Mine might have been acoustic or red magnetic with fine setting.
Unconfirmed report of a second mine in Grand Harbour entrance.
Am handicapped in sweeping operations by (reasons). Request cables for Skids lighters be sent in a warship during operation M.C.8 or in escort for convoy M.W.6. Propose two D.W.1 Wellingtons be flown to Malta. (V.A. Malta, 1910/17 to C.in C.Med.).

LIVERPOOL Question of her repairs. (V.C.N.S. 2349/17 to C.in C. Med.). See Mediterranean Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.2.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CAPETOWN — To boiler clean on arrival at Mombasa using shore assistance if necessary so that work is completed by 23/2. (C.in C. E.I., 0750Z/17, to Force T.).

Convoy B.N.F.2. — Sailed 0400Z/17, 5 ships (2 Port Sudan, 3 Suez). (N.C.S.O. Aden 0650/17, 0662Z/17.

Convoy B.N.16. — Sailed 0500Z/17, 22 ships (3 Port Sudan, 19 Suez). (N.C.S.O. Aden 0910/17).

GRIMSBY B.N. Convoy. — Departure GRIMSBY 0610Z/17 for B N (corrupt group) 8. (N.O.I.C. Aden 09187/17 to Admty., etc.).

Operation "Canvas" Kismayu, enemy shipping. — Present position of 16 ships ex Kismayu as far as known to date. ADRIA, SAVOIA, ERMINIA MAZELLA, MANON, LEONARDO DA VINCI, in Mombasa. ASKARI aground seven miles south Brava. MARCHERRA MONCALIERI (?) and two unknown scuttled in Kismayu. One probably PENSILVANIA at Mogadiscio. UCKERMARK sunk. TANNENFELS escaped. KIONGA is only a tug and may (? words omitted) Mogadiscio but cannot have gone far. Two ships are unaccounted for. (C.in C. E.I., 1026Z/17, to Admty.).

SHORNHAM — Your 1456/16 minesweeping outfit for SHORNHAM is not at Bombay. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 11292/17).

HILDA MOLLER — My 0722/13. HILDA MOLLER arrived Colombo 17/2. Master reported Chinese seriously disaffected, and intending to change them at Hong Kong. (C.in C. E.I. 1208Z/17 to Admty.).

/ KANIMBLA ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

KANIMBLA	My 1118/8. KANIMBLA is to leave patrol so as to arrive Durban A.M./20. (C.in C. E.I., 1414Z/17, to KANIMBLA).
CARTHAGE.	Cancel my 0702/16. CARTHAGE proceed now direct to Aden so as to arrive a.m./23. (C.in C. E.I., 1424Z/17).
FORMIDABLE	Proposed operation. (C.in C. E.I. 1758Z/17 to Admty.). See Operations Volume.
Convoy B.S.16.	1500 G.M.T./17 11 ships (list). (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1653/17).
Convoy B.S.F.2.	1100 G.M.T./17. 17 ships (list), 10 with prisoners of war. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1733/17).
MANDALAY chased by enemy ship.	British ship ? MANDALAY made a (1) distress message at 1330Z/16 in position 001° 09' N. 048° 25' E. (2) She made an amplifying report at 0440 G.M.T./17 stating she had been chased by a German type ship. (3) HERMES and HAWKINS have been searching vicinity since daylight today. (C.in C. E.I., 2046/17, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.2.1941.
Morning.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Japanese Transport Convoy.

R.N.A. Tokyo's 1831/16 (Report of sighting of convoy of Japanese transports).
American A.N.A. Shanghai stated he has been informed from same source that 26 vessels only were sighted including destroyer escort. No information whether transports were loaded or not.
(S.O.I. Shanghai, 0435/17 to Admty.).

Japanese Convoy.

My 0311/15.
(i) Convoy of 25 escorted transports sighted 11/2 W. of Sasebo, course S.
(ii) No evidence in Tokyo suggesting preparations for immediate attack on British territory.
(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 07162/17).

VERA

Overdue shipping, Norwegian tanker VERA due Singapore 14/2 from San Francisco not arrived. (N.O.I.C. Singapore, 07502/17 to Admty.).

Mined Area Malaya.

All areas bounded by the following are dangerous to navigation.
(1) On the north by the parallel 02° 44' N.
(2) On the east by the meridian 104° 30' E.
(3) On the south by the parallel 01° 35' N.
(4) On the west by coast of Malaya.
Mines will be laid in the above area without further notice and vessels wishing to pass through area must apply to British naval authorities for a route. Vessels disregarding these instructions will do so at their risk and peril.
(R.A., Malaya, 09002/17 to China Station).

SCOTIA

Understood that Norwegian tanker SCOTIA now at Nagasaki has been ordered by naval authorities to proceed to Hong Kong for orders. Subject to your concurrence it would be preferred that she should complete discharging and then proceed on her voyage to California as previously arranged.
(D.T.D., 1854/17 to C.in C. China).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Ice Report. Field of ice dangerous to navigation reported between 048° 00' N. 048° 43' W. and 047° 42' N. 047° 57' W.
(F.O. 3 B.S., 1037/17, to N.A. Escort Force).

Refitting of Ships in U.S.A. If Lend-Lease Bill becomes law next month and our ships are refitted in U.S.A., Navy Department considers representatives of D.N.C., D.N.O., E. in C. and D.E.E. should be sent to Washington; also suggest necessary to have Liaison Officers at U.S. Navy Yards.
Any advance information as to scope of work which may be required to be undertaken would be acceptable.
(N.A., Washington, 1140/17, to Admty.).

B.H.X.110. Departure B.H.X.110, Ocean escort ALAUNIA returning to Halifax through 44.20 N 60 W.
(Con. i/c Bermuda, 1243/17, to Admty. etc.)
List of ships without (10) and (11).
(N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1221/17).

HERMION (Independently routed.) 1628/23/1 HERMION leaves Melbourne 22/2 for N.Z. (A.C.N.B. 12492/17).

T.C.9. Halifax departure 17/2 ROYAL SOVEREIGN, T.C.9. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1450/17).

Convoy Routes. Your 1236/16. A.M. 1803/21/10/40 refers to indicating Room position when called for by Commodore. Any other position should also be indicated by this method.
Risk suggested must be accepted but it is advisable not to follow the convoy route too closely in allocating secret positions.
(D.T.D., 1535/17 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.X.110 HAMILLIES. Your 2249/15. Suggesting amended R.V.
(R.A.S., 1705/17 to Admty. etc.).

/ Camouflage of ships at night ...

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Camouflage of ships at night.

A scheme has been devised in Canada whereby a ship may be rendered nearly invisible at night.
Description of scheme and tests carried out. Earnestly request matter may receive T.L's consideration and early opportunity demonstrate scheme.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1721/17).

SEVERN

F.O.S.1939/15. (Presumably 1936/15 from C.in C. W.A. intended.)
Inform Adty. of return route SEVERN has been ordered to follow after parting company from S.C.32.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1732/17 to R.A.F.).

NEWARK
WELLS

Arrived here 2030 today. Minor engine defects may delay departure.
(N.O.I.C., St. John's N.F. 2011/17 to F.O. 3 E.S.).

Australia.

Suspicious Vessels.

When in 009° 48' S. 153° 15' E. at approx. 0200Z/16 R.A.A.F. Flying boat sighted 2 unidentified vessels steering 180° on parallel track about 4 miles apart. (Particulars). Search by three aircraft commencing dawn/17 failed to locate either vessel. (A.C.N.B., 1200Z/17.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

At Kismayu. Present position. (C.in C. E.I., 10262/17) See East Indies.

SIEZIA Arrivals 19/2 SIEZIA Candia.
(Valencia T.H.I. 2000/17.).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

At Kismayu. Present position.
(C.in C. E.I., 10262/17) See East Indies.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

At Kismayu. Present position. (C.in C. E.I., 1026Z/17) See East Indies.

SPEZIA Arrivals 19/2 SPEZIA Candia.
(Valencia T.H.I. 2000/17.).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

At Kismayu. Present position.
(C.in C. E.I., 1026Z/17) See East Indies.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ARTHUR F. CORWIN (torpedoed 13/2). A/S operations in co-operation with R.A.F. to be undertaken.

Your 1154/14. Not considered that A/S sweeps can be a really effective counter to the U-Boat menace though well worth carrying out under the conditions envisaged. To be really effective it is considered that an A/S Striking Force must work in the closest co-operation with the R.A.F. and it is intended to employ such forces as soon as the necessary training in A.S.V. and intercommunication has been carried out. If state of escorts permits hope to be able to initiate this type of operation during the next month.
It may well prove possible on occasions to co-ordinate the movements of H.F. Destroyers with these hunting operations and any such collaboration should prove most valuable.
(C.in C. W.A. 0210/17 to C.in C. H.F.).

W.B. WALKER (torpedoed 29/1).

Abandon search. SOUTHERN PRIDE return to Belfast, ST.OLAVES to Loche Ewe, SALVONIA to Campbeltown.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1652/17).

SHAFTESBURY (?)

British 4284 tons. Following has been read. SSSS
From SALVONIA at 1930 G.M.T., heard SSSS 59.53 N., 12.13 W., QHJ SHAFTESBURY torpedoed. (Lyness, 1940/17).

SIAMESE PRINCE.

British, 8456 tons, (sailing independently New York to Liverpool). Have intercepted mutilated W/T signal (begins) Torpedoed 059° 51' N. 012° 13' W. (Ends). My position 060° 54' N. 012° 44' W. Am proceeding towards position indicated. H.T.A. 0200/18. Awaiting your instructions.
(VISENDA, 2050/17, to S.O.N.T.)(D.S.,532).
Detach 1 trawler to assistance of ship torpedoed in 059° 53 (sic.) N. 012° 13' W. at 2030/17. Ship detached report name at first available opportunity.
SALVONIA tug also ordered to proceed.
(C.in C. W.A., 2111/17, to ARROW).

/ My 2111/17. ...

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

SIAMESE PRINCE. (Contd.)	My 2111/17. SALVONIA not proceeding. (C.in C. W.A., 2203/17, to ARROW). Following has been read. 3333 59.51 N., 12.13 W., SIAMESE PRINCE torpedoed 1932/17 de Zuwe 2152/17. (Lyness, T.O.H. 2257/17). Proceed to assistance of steamship torpedoed 059° 53' (sic) N. 012° 13' W. at 1940/17. 1 trawler has been detached by ARROW to assist. (C.in C. W.A., 2303/17 to MISTRAL). My 1652. SOUTHERN PRIDE and ST. OLAVES proceed as ordered. SALVONIA proceed when weather moderates to assistance of SIAMESE PRINCE torpedoed in position 59° 52' (sic) N. 12° 13' W. at 2032 today. Trawler has been detached to this position. Report when you proceed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2333/17, to SALVONIA).

Submarines Reported.

1127.	D.F., Italian S/M in 046° 30' N., 004° W. Good Fix. (F.O.(S) 1206/17, to RIGRIS).
0009.	About 48.30 N., 20° - 22° W., very indefinite. (D.S., 531).
1157.	About 56° N., 21.30 W. (German) indefinite. (D.S. 532).
1757.	About 56° N., 20° W. (German) indefinite. (D.S. 532).
1945.	About 50° N., 8.30 W. (German) indefinite. (D.S. 532).

/ Estimated U/B dispositions. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.2.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

German.
One 60° N. - 61° N. 18° W. - 23° W.
One 60 miles of 58° N. 22° 30' W.
One 40 miles of 56° N. 23° 30' W.
One 48° 30' N. 20° W. 0009/17 may be outward bound from Finisterre.
Possibly one 60 miles of 56° 30' N. 21° W.
Possibly one 90 miles of 53° N. 25° W.
One 48° N. - 50° N. 30° W. - 33° W.
One 90 miles of 37° N. 20° W.

Italian.
One 46° 30' N. 4° W. probably patrolling.
No information of others.
(D.D.I.C. 1335/17).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.2.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

HIPPER Cruiser at Brest.

Photographs taken today show the HIPPER class cruiser in dock at Brest.

Sweep for Cruiser

EDINBURGH and NIGERIA returned to Scapa this evening from patrol of the Iceland-Faeroes passage.

U-Boats on Northern Approach route.

Two more ships have been torpedoed on the Northern Approach route; SS SIAMESE PRINCE at 1932/17 in 59° 51' N., 12° 13' W., and SS BLACK OSPREY at 0231/18 in approx. 61° 13' N., 18° 10' W., SS SEAFORTH was torpedoed this evening in 58° 48' N., 18° 17' W.

E-Boats.

E-Boats were suspected in the Thames Approaches tonight.

Enemy Movements

STURGEON on patrol has been informed that W/T intelligence suggests convoy movements and naval activity between the Skagerrak and Bergen in the near future.

/ possibly

British Air Activity

In order to obtain the maximum information of day movement of enemy shipping an air patrol is to be carried out twice daily between Ushant and Guernsey when weather conditions give sufficient protection from enemy fighters.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.2.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Yarmouth was bombed again early this morning and the Naval Base was damaged. The Admiralty are concerned at the number of attacks by single aircraft on Lowestoft and Yarmouth. The safety of shipping using the East Coast Channel is dependent on the efficiency of mine sweeping and A.A. craft based on these harbours, and they have asked the C. in C., Home Forces to take action.

A.P.Trawler SARONTA was attacked and damaged off Lowestoft this evening.

M/S Trawler STELLA RIGEL reports having shot down an enemy A/C at 0400 today off Felixtowe. A large red flash as if an aircraft exploded was seen by numerous observers at the time.

SS MARIA was bombed and machine gunned this morning in the N.W. Approaches and was damaged.

Convoy F.S. was attacked east of Felixtowe but no damage is reported.

R.V. Yard Deptford suffered slight damage from incendiary bombs last night.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.2.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was suspected between the North Foreland and Harwich.

Mines were exploded today off the Humber. A parachute mine reported on the beach at Naze at low water.

Tyne was not opened until 1627, owing to minesweepers being unable to operate this forenoon.

Barry Roads East was reopened at 1214, and Campbeltown Loch at 1040.

Attack on Convoy S.L.S. 64 by Raider

Out of 19 ships in Convoy S.L.S. 64 it now appears fairly certain that 7 were sunk in the attack 12/2. Six have arrived at Funchal, one at Gibraltar and two at the Azores, and 3 which were separated from the convoy are not accounted for.

Operations Against Vichy French

SS FORT RICHEPANSE, P.L.M. 13 and LORIENT Intercepted.

REGISTAN boarded Vichy French SS FORT RICHEPANSE at noon today in 30° 47' N., 18° 59' W., and is sending her in to Gibraltar under armed guard. MARSDALE intercepted SS P.L.M. 13 at 2000 and SS LORIENT at 2359 in 28° 12' N., 12° 23' W., and is bringing them to Gibraltar. P.L.M. 13 made S.O.S. and MARSDALE reported that both ships intended to scuttle.

MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.2.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Suez Canal Closed

Parachute mines were dropped last night in the outer channel of the Canal at Port Said. There were 9 explosions near Fayid.

25 objects, of which 10 are believed to be mines and the remainder probably mine covers or unexploded bombs were dropped in the Suez Canal this morning. The Canal will probably have to be closed for 7 days. Trawling and sweeping are to begin tomorrow.

It is reported from a source considered reliable, that two convoys of German ships escorted by German aircraft passed Tunis on 15/2 proceeding towards Tripoli (Africa)

Air Operations

A single Wellington dropped 2760 lbs of bombs on Rhodes harbour last night.

Enemy aircraft made two minelaying attacks on Benghazi harbour today and suffered losses in so doing, from Australian Hurricanes and from A.A.Fire.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/18 (D.C. 1159/18) At 2330/18 (D.C. 2350/18).

Yarmouth and Lowestoft A/A Defences.

N.O.I.C. Yarmouth's 1110/18. Feared that German Air Force will now look on ROYAL ARTHUR Yarmouth and Lowestoft as soft spots by reason of their very weak A/A defence. In that event continued bombing must be expected. Yarmouth and Lowestoft are of high importance because neither warships nor convoys can move on the east coast unless sweepers from those ports continue to operate efficiently and without interruption, vide Nore Letter 683/169F/40 of 12/2/41. Request serious consideration to the early improvement of A/A defences at these places. (C. in C. Nore 1746/18).
O.3339 18/2. Following from Adty:- Adty are concerned regarding number of attacks by single aircraft on Lowestoft and Yarmouth.
(2) Safety of shipping using East Coast Channels is dependent on efficiency of minesweeping and auxiliary patrol craft based on these harbours.
(3) Request practicability of CIRCUS paying a visit may be examined. Ends.
In addition to the one troop which has been at Lowestoft for the last fornight please consider giving protection Yarmouth. (Hofor 1908/18 to Eastco).

Aultbea. Guard Loop laid.

LINNET reports outer guard loop laid. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1900/18).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

SOKOL. — Sailed escorted by WHITE BEAR as by S.3's 1209/14.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0930/18).

SURCOUF.
THUNDERBOLT. — Intend to sail SURCOUF and THUNDERBOLT escorted by WESTON at 1600/19 to 57° 30'N. 10° 00'W. E.T.A. 1930/20. Thence WESTON to Londonderry, Submarines to Northwestwards as routed by F.O.S. 1549/14 and C. in C. W.A 1938/15.
(S.2. 1013/18).

QUEEN ELIZABETH.
DIDO.
SOMALI. — QUEEN ELIZABETH will sail from Rosyth for Scapa p.m./20.
A.A. escort DIDO, A/S screen SOMALI and 2 destroyers detailed by V.A.(D) H.F. SOMALI is at Rosyth. Remaining ships are to proceed under orders of DIDO to arrive at Rosyth a.m./20.
(C. in C. H.F. 1039/18).

MAIDSTONE. — Adty 1506/16. Following received from MAIDSTONE. Anticipate MAIDSTONE can sail for Clyde 48 hours after arrival of TYNE. Estimate ten days in hand required.
(F.O.S. 1102/18 to Adty).
Reference Admiralty 1506/16. No labour is available at present to undertake defects covering ten days.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1504/18 to F.O.S).
Adty 1506/16. Request very early decision.
(R.A.D. 1512/18 to Adty).

PANDORA. — My 1215/16. Sailing of PANDORA postponed at least 24 hours.
(S.5. 1115/18).

COTTESMORE. — Sail COTTESMORE for Sheerness forthwith.
(C. in C. W.A. 1234/18 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

/KELLY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18;2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

KELLY.
KASHMIR.
KIPLING.

Arrived Plymouth 1005. (C. in C. Plymouth 1348/18).

INTREPID.
IMPULSIVE.
ICARUS.

Arrived 1020.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1355/18).

ALCANTARA.

My 1615/7 and my 2258/16, F.O.I.C. Southampton's 1217/17 and F.O.C.N.P's 2214/17. Unless ALCANTARA can arrive Clyde in time to carry out the firings ordered in para. 3 of my 1615/7 and be ready to sail p.m./2/3, her sailing from the Clyde must be deferred. It cannot be accepted that she should proceed abroad without having carried out any practice firing.
(A.C.N.S.F. 1402/18).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1541/18).

S/M's.

Positions at 0800/19 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1707/18).

PRIMROSE.

My 1600/18. Add PRIMROSE left Tyne 1745 for Methil. E.T.A. about 0100/19.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1752/18).

REPULSE.

A.S. Rosyth's 1929/17. Item (ii), embark such boiler tubes as will enable this item to be completed elsewhere; also any spare gear necessary to complete other important defects.
(C. in C. H.F. 2154/18 to REPULSE).

CACHALOT.

Intend to sail CUTTY SARK at 1000/19 to R/V with CACHALOT in 315 Cape Wrath 8 miles at 0800/20 and escort her to the Clyde.
(S.2. 2352/18).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Hook of Holland and Gap E. Sweeps by M.T.B's.

Weather permitting three Motor Torpedo Boats are to proceed to charted position Maas Light Vessel and then close Hook on silent engine.
If nothing is found M.T.Bs. should then sweep to eastwards if endurance permits. Any ship met east of 002° 20' East may be attacked without challenging.
(C. in C. Nore 1146/18 to BEEHIVE).
My 1146/18. After "weather permitting" add "tonight 18th".
In addition two M.T.B's will carry out sweep from inner Gabbard through Gap E to Brown Ridge and back by same route. All M.T.B's sail about 1800/18 returning daylight/19.
(C. in C. Nore 1508/18 to BEEHIVE, and 1742/18 to VANESSA, GARTH).
Sailed WIDGEON, M.T.Bs. 32, 34, 31, 42 and 43 at 1818.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1846/18).

Patrol of Iceland Faroes Passage.

Scapa arrivals EDINBURGH 1617 NIGERIA 1619.
(A.C.O.S. 1629/18).

British Air Activity.

Search for Mines.

Cancel my 2230/17. One Sunderland from Sullom Voe to vicinity 61° 13'N. 18° 10'W. E.T.A. 1100/18 to search for about 3 hours.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0458/18).

Nord Fjord.

Three Beaufort Aircraft leave Wick about 1200 to attack any enemy vessels near Nord Fjord.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1134/18).

/Patrols.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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/Patrols.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Patrols. One Whitley A/C will fly coastwise from St. Abbs to Flamborough Head. Expect depart 1430. E.T.A. about 1515.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1358/18).

Enemy shipping along Northern French Coast appears to move by day.
2. It is intended to obtain the maximum information of day movement.
3. One Blenheim to carry out patrol BUST twice daily between Ushant and Guernsey when in the opinion of the pilot existing weather conditions give sufficient protection from enemy fighters.
4. The times and direction of the patrol must be kept as irregular as possible to increase security but, subject to weather, the patrols should normally be flown as nearly as possible to dawn and dusk having regard to the need for irregularity.
(N.W.D. H.Q. 19 Group 1757/18 to St. Eval).

Escorts. No fighter escort tonight. Keep kites flying.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1630/18 to POWEY, HORNPIPE).

Expect Air escort throughout daylight tomorrow Wednesday from 0815 by one Whitley relieved by one.Sunderland.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1816/18 to WANDERER, WITCH, MONTGOMERY, NASTURTIUM).

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy A/C believed exploded off Aldeburgh. STELLA RIGEL. Coast Guard Aldeburgh reports at 0404, 155° from lookout and 135° from Orfordness C.G. lookout a large red flash in sky believed to be aircraft exploded. Sparks seen as object appeared to fall. Heavy explosion also heard. Also reported by Orfordness H.S. and H.U. Patrol and SHELDRAKE. At 0418 D.O. Walton reports red glow just above surface bearing 125° distant followed by heavy explosion. Also reported by SHELDRAKE, Coast Guard Clacton, Patrols H.Q. and H.L.2. and Capt D 1 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0520/18).

/My.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Enemy A/C believed exploded off Aldeburgh. STELLA RIGEL. (contd).

My 0520 STELLA RIGEL reports having definitely shot down an enemy plane with her oerlikon gun at 0400 to-day in approximate position 51° 57'N. 01° 35'E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1044/18).

Yarmouth bombed.

Air raid damage Yarmouth 0400/18. Direct hit WATCHFUL. Building demolished, not repairable. Other minor damages to Admiralty properties estimated £28. (Works, Shotley 1205/18).
Naval Base damaged by bomb. Staff evacuated into dug-out. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1723/18)
During final raid of night by 2 planes at 0545/18 a direct hit was registered on Naval base demolishing the top floors and necessitating evacuation of building. Casualties nil.
(N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1810/18).

TARIA.

(Dutch Tanker, 10,354 Tons) Bombed in 55° 4'N. 16° 12'W.
(Valentia Radio 1023/18).
TARIA machine-gunned.
(Port Patrick Radio, Recd. 1142/18).
Detach 1 Corvette to assist if necessary.
(C. in C. W.A. 1225/18 to LEAMINGTON.).
S.O.S. from TARIA now ended.
(Port Patrick Radio 1232/18).
Sailed ASSURANCE and SEAMAN from Campbeltown to assist.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1405/18).
Return to Campbeltown.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1624/18 to ASSURANCE, SEAMAN).
Your 1225/18 and N.O.i/c Greenock 1405/18. Am escorting TARIA whose compasses are out of action and making water slowly. My position course and speed are 055° 12'N. 015° W. 080° 7. Master states tug not required.
(SABRE 1801/18 to C. in C. W.A).

Convoy F.S. Odd.

Convoy BOOTY being shadowed by one aircraft 1000 ft. in 52° 1'N. 1° 45'E.
(VALOROUS 1028/18) (HURRICANE 1030/18).
Convoy being attacked in 52° N. 1° 45'E.
(PELICAN 1041/18).

/R.V. Yard.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

R.V. Yard Deptford bombed 17/2.	A number of incendiary bombs fell on this yard last night. 2 small fires started in Block 17 but quickly overcome by yard personnel and R.M. Police. Some damage to stock, chiefly towels. Some local records damaged by fire and water. (Supt R.V.Y. Deptford 1030/18).
Bawdsey Area.	Following received from R.A.F. Bawdsey begins:- Enemy aircraft flying in area covered by joining following points. Numerous aircraft flying at 5000 feet and less operated in this area throughout the night. Ends 0950. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1035/18).
Shetlands on 17/2.	Following received from N.O.i/c., Lerwick. Begins:- One Dornier flying pencil appeared over Lerwick at 1220 and dropped two bombs on shore of north harbour. 2 more bombs dropped near Greenhead and two on Bressay Island near A/A guns. These latter have not yet exploded. A/C then machine-gunned A/P trawler LORD BEACONSFIELD off the south entrance and then made off to the eastward. Fighters failed to intercept. 3 military personnel received slight cuts and two of crew of LORD BEACONSFIELD grazed by splinters. Damage entirely superficial but trawlers D. C. wires cut in several places. T.O.O. 1616/17 ends. (A.C.O.S. 1105/18).
SARONTA. (A/P Trawler) damaged.	At 1640 off Lowestoft SARONTA was attacked by Dornier and received damaged by two near misses. Now returned to harbour. Fire consequently opened by ships in harbour, and enemy possibly hit. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1920/18).
Attack on Invergordon 17/2. Request for Investigation.	F.O.I.C. Invergordon, reports that at 1140 17/2 E.A. recognised as JU 88 entered Cromarty Firth between Sutors at 100 ft, attacked oil tanks with bombs at 50 ft, then with M.G. R.A.F. camp, a Sunderland aircraft at moorings and A/P trawler. No fire was opened and no warning given; 2. No.casualties to Naval personnel. One oil tank demolished, two damaged. Loss of oil estimated at at least, 2000 tons. 3. Request matter may be investigated and Admiralty informed of measures which it is proposed to take to reduce risk of repetition of such incidents. (D. of L.D. 2022/18 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.2. 1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Campbeltown.	Campbeltown Loch now open. Ships should not exceed 6 knots entering harbour. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1040/18).
ZME. 18.	Intend leaving Milford Haven 1715 to-day to lay at 2330 returning on completion about 0530/19. (PLOVER 1042/18).
Sweep of Gap A.	Following received from M.S.5. in amplification of his 0110/17. (C. in C. Rosyth 1046/18).
Tyne.	Tyne remains closed. Minesweepers unable to operate. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1137/18). Port of Tyne open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1627/18).
Barry Roads.	My 1404/10. Ships may now anchor in Barry Roads East of 3° 16'West. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1214/18).
JAMAICA PLANTER. (mined 22/1).	My 1720/22/1. M.V. JAMAICA PLANTER has now been placed in the Barry Dock. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1258/18).
Walton.	C.G. Walton reports 1 parachute mine on beach at Naze at low water mark. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1340/18 1945/18).
Minelaying off Brest.	Admiralty letter M/O.D. 2017/41 on 13/2/41. Intend carrying out operation A as amended by Admiralty Message 1349/17 between 0030 and 0130/20. Request H.Q.B.C. may carry out a diversionary bombing attack on Brest during lay and for as long as possible up to three hours before 0030/20. (ii) KELLY, JACKAL, KASHMIR, KIPLING will cover 20. D.F. (C. in C. Plymouth 1344/18).

/7.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Minelaying off Brest. (contd).

7 destroyers proceed southward from position 180°. The Lizard five at 1930/19 and leave vicinity Ushant about 0200/20 direct Plymouth.
Request PANDORA may keep clear.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1822/18 to F.O.S).
C. in C. Plymouth 1344/18.
1. Three destroyers from Plymouth will be carrying out a minelaying operation off Brest between 0030 and 0130/20.
2. Request diversionary bombing attack on Brest from as soon after 2130/19 as possible until 0130/20.
3. It is not intended that this diversion should take precedence over major object of air attack on the harbour and gardening in the approaches to Brest.
(A.C.N.S.H. 2234/18).

The following three mines exploded to-day. Particulars.
(F.O.Humber 1835/18).

S.N. 7B.
S.N. 68 A.

Scapa arrival 1914 AURORA.
(A.C.O.S. 1921/18).

Arrival Port ZA 2155/18 SOUTHERN PRINCE, AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, BRIGHTON, LANCASTER, CHARLESTON.
(TRELAWNEY 2157/18).

Scapa departure 2200 ARETHUSA.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

At 1345 sighted small M.Y. of about 30 T. Flying I.F.S. colours in 56° 14'N. 8° 4'W. CO 132° SP 8 Knots a somewhat suspicious circumstance in the navigators view. A/C report. (Aldergrove 1545/18).

2 Vessels off Fair Isle.

Following have not been identified One small slow vessel bearing 332°, distance 4 miles Course 190° at 0230/17.
One small slow vessel bearing 325° distance 8 miles Course 060° at 0730/17.
Both from Fair Isle.
(A.C.C.S. 1803/18).

E.Boat.

Suspect E boat between 56 and 57 buoy at 2035.
(C. in C. Nore 2103/18).

Skagerrack to Bergen.

W/T Intelligence suggest convoy movements and naval activity between Skagerrack and Bergen possibly in the near future.
(D.D.I.C. 1910/18) (F.O.S. 2253/18 to STURGEON).

Miscellaneous.

Iceland. Uncharted rock.

Uncharted rock discovered in 064° 11' 22"N. 021° 52' 50" W depth 4½ fathoms at low water. Position marked by Dan buoy.
(F.O. Iceland 1237/18).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

General.

Turkish Ferry Boats. — Seven Turkish Ferry Boats waiting in Clyde are urgently required in Turkey. Request you co-ordinate arrangements to sail them with special escort at first favourable opportunity. Escort is required to vicinity of 25° W. whence they should proceed independently to Madeira for onward routeing via the Cape. (D.T.D. 1157/18 to C. in C. W.A. F.O.I.C. Greenock).

W/T Oscillation. — Admty. 1906/29/10. Arrangements have now been made with Ministry of Shipping for W/T surveyors to ascertain what foreign merchant ships assembling for convoy have W/T apparatus liable to oscillate badly, and report cases not remedied. N.C.S.O.'s at U.K. Ports where W/T surveyors are acting should establish necessary liaison with these Officers. (D.T.D. 1301/18 to A.I.G. 47).

A.M.S.I. 170. — Attention of Masters to be called to A.M.S.I. 170 compliance with which is considered to be of great importance. (D.T.D. 2013/18 to A.I.G. 47).

Coastal Convoys.

E.N. 73. — 0315/18. Escorts. 22 Ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 0337/18) List 0748/18). Deletion (N.C.S.O Methil 1452/18) TENNESSEE to join (N.C.S.O. Aberdeen 1541/18). Absentees and addition (C. in C. Rosyth 1633/18) Position (ELLESMERE 1940/18).

F.N. 11. — Sailed 0833, 38 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1101/18) List (1214/18) 2 ships sailed. (N.C.S.O. Harwich 1531/18) Ships joining Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber 1719/18).

/O.B.U. 287.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

O.B.U. 287.	Delaying sailing pending WANDERER's arrival at Loch Ewe. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 0840/18). 1700/18, escort ROMSEY, 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1830/18) List (1910/18).
8 M.V's	To sail 1630/18. Escorts (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 0846/18) Sailed (1640/18, 1648/18)
O.B.C. 289:	0230/21. 7 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0911/18).
F.N. and F.S.	Cancelling 1942/16. Additional escorts F.N. 11-16 and F.S. 16-20. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1058/18, 1020/20)
F.S.12.	My 1907/17. BUSIRIS arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames. 1132/18).
F.S. 16.	A/S trawlers to join. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1204/18) Sailed 1400/18. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1445/18) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1547/18) Escorts (C. in C. Rosyth 2356/18)
E.N.U. 73.	0700/20, unescorted, 2 ships. (N.C.S.O Aultbea 1247/18).
E.N. 74.	0715/19, escorts, 15 ships. Codes. (N.C.S.O Methil 1247/18) SLEIPNER sailing cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 2145/18).
2 M.V's.	Admty 1145/10. A/S escort (C. in C. Plymouth 1316/18).
F.S. 13.	Position; 8 ships for London (N.C.S.O. Thames 1359/18) Arrived (1907/18).
O.B.O. 288.	0700/19, escort SNOWDROP, 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1603/18).

/W.N. 85.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

O.B.U. 287.	Delaying sailing pending WANDERER's arrival at Loch Ewe. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 0840/18). 1700/18, escort ROMSEY, 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1830/18) List (1910/18).
8 M.V's	To sail 1630/18. Escorts (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 0846/18) Sailed (1640/18, 1648/18)
O.B.C. 289.	0230/21. 7 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0911/18).
F.N. and F.S.	Cancelling 1942/16. Additional escorts F.N. 11-16 and F.S. 16-20. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1058/18, 1020/20)
F.S.12.	My 1907/17. BUSIRIS arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames. 1132/18).
F.S. 16.	A/S trawlers to join. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1204/18) Sailed 1400/18. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1445/18) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1547/18) Escorts (C. in C. Rosyth 2356/18)
E.N.U. 73.	0700/20, unescorted, 2 ships. (N.C.S.O Aultbea 1247/18).
E.N. 74.	0715/19, escorts, 15 ships. Codes. (N.C.S.O Methil 1247/18) SLEIPNIR sailing cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 2145/18).
2 M.V's.	Admty 1145/10. A/S escort (C. in C. Plymouth 1316/18).
F.S. 13.	Position; 8 ships for London (N.C.S.O. Thames 1359/18) Arrived (1907/18).
O.B.O. 288.	0700/19, escort SNOWDROP, 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1603/18).

/W.N. 85.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

W.N. 85. Arrived 1515/18. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1604/18) (C. in C. Rosyth 2356/18).

F.S. 16. Tug ST. MELLONS, to join (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1700/18) No ships from Tyne area. (C. in C. Rosyth 1709/18) 3 ships from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1724/18).

E.N. 75. SNAPDRAGON as additional close escort. (C. in C. Rosyth 1717/18).

F.N. 10. Diversions from Sunderland, Middlesbrough, Blyth. (C. in C. Rosyth 1807/18).

13 M.V.'s To sail 1830/19. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1814/18).

W.N. 87. 2146/18. Escorts. 11 ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2221/18).

F.S. 17. Left. Escorts. (C. in C. Rosyth 2356/18).

Ocean Convoys.

S.C. 21. Arrived with VOLUNTEER. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0725/18) Arrivals (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1016/18, 1025/18, N.C.S.O. Mersey 1720/18, N.C.S.O. Belfast 1725/18).

S.L.S. 64. Asking when ships now at Funchal will be ready to sail. (D.T.D. 1239/18 to Consul Funchal).
Your 1239/18. BLAIR ATHOLL ready for sea, original destination Middlesbrough. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1941/18 - circulated under T.O.O. 1941/17) For Ships lost from S.L.S. 64, see North Atlantic.

S.L. 66. Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1200/18).

/H.X. 106.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.
(contd).

H.X. 106.	Clyde arrivals (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0845/18) TORBURG arrived (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1505/18) Mersey arrivals (N.C.S.O Mersey 1730/18).
H.O. 54.	Postponed 24 hours, weather (F.O.C.N.A 0944/18).
H.O. 53.	27 hours late (C. in C. W.A. 1018/18 to LEAMINGTON, SABRE, etc).
H.X. 107.	Deletions (D.T.D. 1158/18) LEEDS UNITED to meet (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1842/18).
H.X. 108.	Not met, position (RODNEY, 1400Z/18) Cancel my 1400. Located in 56.13 N., 35.17 W (RODNEY , 1755Z/18).
O.B. 288.	List, destinations and E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1615/18) Sailed 1625/18, 9 ships (1659/18).
S.L. 64.	My 1808/13. Final destinations (D.T.D. 1717/18, 1718/18).
H.X. 111.	Destinations (D.T.D. 1723/18).
S.C. 23.	Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1423/18).

MILITARY CONVOYS.

FORTH BATORY.	Your 2249/15. A/S escort for FORTH and BATORY will be provided. (C. in C. W.A. 2051/18).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BOY ALAN. (L.L. Sweeper) Wreck raised and now beached 060° 1½ cables from Southend pierhead. Operations proceeding. (N.O.I.C. Thames 0853/18).

CORYTON. (Grounded 16/2)
EMPIRE BREEZE. My 1112 and 1620/16. Position of CORYTON precarious. All crew safely landed except master who remained on board and was subsequently washed overboard and drowned before lifeboat could be sent. Salvage vessel BULLKER has been directed to proceed from Amble to CORYTON after Salvage of EMPIRE BREEZE is completed. EMPIRE BREEZE is ready for refloating when weather moderates. (C. in C. Rosyth 1145/18).

ELECTRA. A/S directing gear out of action. Request repair yard may be allocated and the following defects made good. (R.A.D. 1415/18).

Lifeboat and 2 Bodies. NORTHERN SUN reports sighting waterlogged metal lifeboat in 59° 51'N, 12° 13'W. at 1300/18. Continuing search. (S.O. Northern Trawlers 1447/18). My 1300. Recovered 2 unidentified bodies both in officers uniform. Request instructions. (NORTHERN SUN 1830/18 to S.O. N. Trawlers.).

BARRHEAD (Grounded 29/12) My 1131/14/1. Am making further attempt at salvage with local resources. Slight chance the ship may be got off at next spring tide, or one after. (F.O. Iceland 1737/18).

Wrecks. 182 Q.Z.H. Stornoway Area. Dangerous wreck reported in 58° 17' N. 07° 28'W. (Hydrographer 1830/18).

184 Q.Z.H. Yarmouth area. Wreck with Spar showing 3 ft. at low water, reported in 52° 47' 45" N. 01° 44' 30" E. (Hydrographer 2206/18).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

PORT RICHEPANSE — Boarded French ship PORT RICHEPANSE in position 030° 47' N. 018° 59' W. at 1200 B.S.T. Ship steering 076° speed 8 knots, one engine out of order, salved two bags confidential Vichy mail. Sending into Gibraltar with armed guard and accompanying ship until further orders. (REGISTAN, 1230/18, to Admty.).

North Atlantic.

S.L.S.64 attacked by raider 12/2. — Following 7 ships are now believed to have been sunk -
WARLABY 4876 tons. Oil cake.
SHREWSBURY 4542 tons. Wheat.
WESTBURY 4712 tons. Cotton seed, oil cake.
OSWESTRY GRANGE 4664 tons. General.
DERBYNAM 4896 tons. Iron ore.
PERSEUS (Greek) 5172 tons. General.
BORGESTAD (Nor.) 3924 tons. Cotton.
The Norwegian BUR and British LORNASTON have arrived St. Miguel, Azores, and it is hoped that four other ships separated from the convoy may be safe, which with the ships already known to have arrived, would make a total of 12 ships saved and 7 probably sunk. (D.S. 532, 18/2).
Subsequent to above summary:-

VARANGBERG — (Norwegian) Arrived Gibraltar 17/2 (F.O.C.N.A., 1103/18). This left 3 ships unaccounted for - NAILSEA LASS, EMPIRE ENERGY, and Greek KALLIOPI.

SHEFFIELD — Gibraltar 18/2 0900 departure SHEFFIELD E.T.A. position 030° 46' N. 022° 03' W. 1200 zone minus one 20/2 in accordance with Admty. 1755/15. (F.O.C.N.A. 0950/18, to Admty. etc.).

/ Your 1708/17. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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/ Your 1708/17. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SHEFFIELD (Contd.) — Your 1708/17. SHEFFIELD is to return to Gibraltar on reaching 50° N. or earlier if fuel necessitates, in accordance with A.T. 2005/14 para. 2. (D.O.D.(F) 1622/18 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Air Report. — Flying curtailed owing to weather. (200 Group, 1700/18).

ARK ROYAL — My 2319/16, report what bombs, etc. were used by ARK ROYAL's aircraft on these occasions, and whether correct tests and drills were carried out. (D.N.A.D. 1738/18, to S.O. Force H).

P.L.M.13 (French) Distress Message. — Following has been received.
S.O.S. de CNM (Casa Blanca)
Position 28.12 N., 12.25 W.
(Portishead Radio, 1745/18).
DE EABX RAMON ALONSO begins S.O.S. from P.L.M. - 13/ - F.O.S.D. Position 28.12 N. 12.25 W. J1745 G.M.T. Comandante Bergoin. (Valentia Radio, 1918/18).
RAMON ALONSO R., Spanish. P.L.M. 13 was reported passing Gibraltar on 12/2. (D.S. 553).
Following picked up by amateur at 2020 G.M.T. between 75 and 95 Mtrs. S.O.S. R.M.M. 13 position A 28.12 North 12.25 West - 1744 G.M.T. (Portishead Radio, T.H.I. 2338/18).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NORTHERN PRINCE. — Overdue shipping, Cancel my 1121/17. NORTHERN PRINCE arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown 10078/18).

TOUAREG, CAPO OLMO, CAP DES PALMES, DRAGON — Your 1045/16 Request you will retain TOUAREG at Pointe Noire until CAPO OLMO or CAP DES PALMES is ready to sail and then sail both ships in company to rendezvous with DRAGON in position previously arranged for 19/2 at 0800/25. Request confirmation that TOUAREG has not already sailed. (C.in C. S.A., 1018/18 to S.N.O. Pointe Noire).

CLAN MACTAVISH — Overdue shipping. CLAN MACTAVISH due Capetown 14/2 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 11158/18).

LANCING — Your 1047/15 (Norwegian whaling factory LANCING to proceed Falkland Islands). Ship sailed p.m./17 and is due Port Stanley 20/2. (N.O.I.C. Rio de Janeiro 1128/18 to Admty.).

Cable Repairs. — LADY DENISON PENDER now at Freetown proceeds A.M./19 for important repair Freetown-Ascension cable in position 008° 19' N. 014° 05' W. time required 7 days maximum probably less. Further signal will be made ref. your 1034/18. (C.in C. S.A., 1325N/18, to Admty.).

PHILOMEL — Your 19122/12. Every effort is to be made to hasten date of A.S.I.S. PHILOMEL release which should not be later than 1/3. (D.T.S.D. 1737/18 to N.O.I.C. Falklands).

AFRICA STAR — Overdue at Cape Verde from Montevideo since 31/1 (raider signal on 29/1), now presumed lost. (D.S. 533).

/ CALLIOPE ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CALLIOPE	Overdue shipping, Panama CALLIOPE has arrived Campana. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2147Z/18).
Proposed Operations.	Reply to Admty. 1934/18. (C.in C. S.A. 2215Z/18) See Operation Volume.
COMORIN S.L.66.	Departure 1331/18 COMORIN as Ocean escort to Convoy SL 66 and thence to Greenock in accordance with C.in C. S.A.'s 1329/17. Local A/S escort SURPRISE, CLEMATIS, PICT, KELT. (S.O.I. Freetown 2327/18 to Admty.).
CAP DES PALMES FORT DE TROYOE TOUAREG CAPO OLMO TOMBOCTOU CUBA INDOCHINOIS CHATEAU ROUX	Condition of Free French Merchant Ships in West African area. For decision whether these ships before being sailed for U.K. if required (A) In Convoy (B) Independently should be degaussed have gun fitted and ammunition supplied and be docked and repaired as necessary. Consider no ship should be sailed independently without degaussing and arming and preferable all should be so fitted. Degaussing and L.A. armament can be fitted in union ports CHATEAU ROUX is loaded and at Freetown as reported in N.C.S.O. Freetowns? 1404/13. (C.in C. S.A. 2357/18 to Adty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta a/c raid, Minelaying, 14/2.

Valetta harbour and approaches.
2000/14.
About 10 enemy aircraft believed J U 88 made coast at 13000 feet and then glided along it to heights varying between 300 and 2000 feet. Mines released over land and drifted to seaward. Mines rather scattered.
Other aircraft bombed using flares illumination. Two landed in Senglea just missing dockyard and one landed in Valetta. Damage considerable.
(V.A. Malta, 0920/18).

DELPHINIUM, PRIMULA ERICA SNAPDRAGON.

C.in C. M.A. 1204/16. In view of pressing need for these vessels in Mediterranean, request fitting of awning and tropical gear may be deferred until arrival Alexandria, necessary gear being forwarded by freight.
(C.in C. Med. 1018/18).

TETRARCH ROVER

After passing 033° 25', 025° 00' TETRARCH is proceeding through 033° 00', 028° 25' thence direct to arrive Sanctuary 0600/20.
ROVER arrives Alexandria 1000/19
ILEX and HASTY arrive Alexandria A.M./18
from 034° 00', 026° 00'.
(Capt. S.1, 1301/18, to TETRARCH, ROVER).

Benghasi, enemy air raids and mining.

Operational summary 0.253 up to 1200 hours 18/2/41.
1. Night. Night 15/16. Enemy bombed Benghasi, 2 mines in Harbour, 1 exploded.
Night 16/17. Enemy bombed Benghasi area. 1 mine dropped in Harbour exploded.

Suez Canal mining.

Night 17/18. Enemy dropped parachute mines in the outer channel Suez Canal Port Said. 9 explosions near Fayid. Canal navigation temporarily suspended. No casualties reported.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1211/18.).

/ Enemy Convoy. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy Convoy. Following from secret source considered reliable. Two convoys of German ships escorted by J.U. 87 passed Tunis on 15/2 proceeding towards Tripoli (Africa). (S.O.I.? Malta, 1230/18, to Admty.).

UPRIGHT patrol. Cancel my 1305/17. On completion of exercise p.m./19 proceed through 035° 34' 014° 10' and 034° 35' 012° 06' to carry out offensive patrol in area G 034° 10' 010° 40' - 000° - 50 - 70. (S.O.(S), Malta, 1647/18, to UPRIGHT).

Five Ships. My 1503/30/11/40. Requesting information re certain vessels. (C.in C. Med. 1658/18 to Admty.) See Mediterranean Volume.

Suez Canal mining. Considered that all objects dropped from attacking planes this morning have been plotted with fair accuracy. Impossible to ascertain in all cases whether objects were mines, mine covers or unexploded bombs. Out of 25 objects reported 10 are probably mines. Considered canal will probably be closed to traffic for 7 days. Trawling and sweeping will be in operation 19/2. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1845/18).

Military Convoy. Your 1247 (See Mediterranean Volume). In view of shortage of tonnage, my 2128/31 refers, urge that fewer ships be used for vehicles and stores for advance party. Number and size appear excessive for amount to be lifted. Also that personnel are carried on H.M. Ships. (D. of S.T. 2007/18 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.).

Minesweeping Whalers. C.in C. Med. 1721/17. Following coal burning whalers are believed to be at Durban, not employed, (list of 10). Request report which are suitable for early naval service. (D.M.S. 2021/18 to N.O.I.C. Durban). Reply: 1130/20.

/ Your 1535/17, ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Minesweeping Whalers. Your 1535/17, regret not possible for drifters to make the passage to Eastern Mediterranean. N.O.i/c Durban is being told to survey and select 6 whalers to be fitted locally as far as possible. (D.M.S. 2025/18, to C.in C. Med.).

Suez Canal Watching. Following from Chiefs of Staff to C.in C., M.E. Re watching Canal to locate any mines. Whatever the number required there should be no difficulty in providing them from troops who have not yet been provided with full equipment. (W.O., 2100/18, to C.in C. M.E.).

East Indies.

French Flying Boat. My 1432/12. Following intercepted by SAGITTA 0600Z/10 (begins) Massawa W/T station from FARAP. Position FARAP 15° 30' N., 40° 07' 50" E. (C.in C. E.I., 0650/18, to Admty.).

BARJORU Your 2130/4. BARJORU replaces SUISANG, my 0740/4 refers. BARJORU now arrived Colombo is unarmed and not degaussed. Should work be done here estimated time 14 days. (C.in C. E.I., 1010Z/18, to C.in C. Med.).

MANDASOR Overdue at Durban from Calcutta since 4/2, (report of bombing 24/1). Now presumed lost. (D.S. 533).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

CUNENE	Portuguese ship CUNENE shortly sailing New York to Lisbon. Master believed pro-Nazi, said to have twelve homing pigeons on board. (D.N.I., 1028/18, to C.in C. A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A.).
German ships.	A.N.A. Santiago de Chile 1131/18 see German Merchant ships.
VAN KINSBERGEN.	My 0952/12. Leave Paramaribo a.m./21 and proceed to Trinidad so as to arrive p.m./23. Complete with fuel and await further orders. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1152/18 to VAN KINSBERGEN).
S.S.EXCALIBUR suspect mission of John Cudahy.	Charge D'Affaires John Cudahy, ex Ambassador to Belgium, travelling in S.S. EXCALIBUR due Lisbon about 25/2 to interview Nazi leaders with view to pro-German propaganda etc. It would appear only action feasible to prevent is by U.S. State Dept. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1203/18, to Admty.).
S.C.23.	Departure Halifax 18/2 COLLINGWOOD, local escort, ASCANIA, ocean escort, S.C.23, CALIFORNIA for Bermuda. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1446/18).
T.C.10.	Numbers of troops and prospective date (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1601/18 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.
FORTH	F.O. 3 B.S. 1705/17. Date FORTH can be ready. (3.S. to F.O.(3), 2254/16).

Australia.

WAIRUNA TULAGI	Have you any news of WAIRUNA and TULAGI? (D.T.D., 1740/18, to A.C.N.B.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Yesterday Minister for Foreign Affairs definitely informed British Ambassador that orders had been issued to prevent German ship from sailing.
(A.N.A. Santiago de Chile 1131/18.).

CORDELIA
DELOS
ARKADIA

Arrival CORDELIA in Ballast, DELOS with Cargo of oats from Russia, ARKADIA with Cargo of putrefying figs from Turkey for Germany. Departures CORDELIA for Russia with cargo of 3,000 empty iron drums.
(Vice Consul, Varna, 1705/18).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FRANCO
FASSIO

Enquiry received concerning this ship, reported by N.A. Madrid on 13/10 torpedoed off Savona with loss of nearly all on board. Have you any information re (1) Sinking (2) Rescue of five survivors stated landed by Submarine at Barcelona on 16/10 (3) Polish Nationals on board?
(Head of M. 1350/18 to C.in C. Med.).

CONTE
BIANCAMANO

New York Press reports negotiations to purchase 27 Italian ships in U.S.A. harbours, including CONTE BIANCAMANO. (D.S. 533).

Kismayu.

Summary of 16 ships at Kismayu as at 17/2. (D.S. 533).

JUVENTUS.

Probably sunk by torpedo in air attack by 4 Swordfish a/c near Kerkenah Island 15-16/2. Ship made S.O.S. to Tripoli during night of 15-16/2. (D.S. 533).

CITTA DI
MESSINA

Believed sunk off Misurata on 15/1 by REGENT. (D.S. 533.).

MOST SECRET.

18. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.
SIAMESE PRINCE.
(torpedoed 17/2.)

Request VISENDA may stand by torpedoed ship until arrival of MISTRAL - trawler detached from 061° 15' N, 015° 30' W, at 2200/17. (C. in C. W.A., 0021/18 to S.O.N.T.)

SIAMESE PRINCE, independently routed New York to Liverpool, was torpedoed when 80' off her route. (D.O.R. 18/2.)

2 Destroyers proceed best speed to assistance of SIAMESE PRINCE torpedoed 059° 51' N,012° 13' W, at 1932/17. When survivors have been recovered carry out A/S search on normal conv.

MAORI with ZULU proceed at best speed to assistance of S.S. SIAMESE PRINCE (position). When survivors recovered carry out an A/S search, as in former signal (R.A.D.0315/18, to MAORI, ZULU.

My 2333/17, report if you have proceeded. Name of torpedoed ship now believed to be SIAMESE PRINCE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1235/18, to SALVONIA.)

SALVONIA proceeding to arrive at given position of SIAMESE PRINCE at daybreak tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1600/18 to Admty Rescue Tugs.)

Sunderland a/c will leave Sullom Voe at daylight to search vicinity 59° 50' N. 12° 00' W. for any trace of SIAMESE PRINCE. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1902/18.)

Arrived position 059° 53' N, 012° 13' W, at 1730. Passing through quantity of wreckage and some bodies. Searched well to Leeward and found 2 capsized boats and rafts. Consider unlikely any survivors in present sea but until relieved by trawler continuing search. MAORI and ZULU proceed 2000 to position (corrupt group) BLACK OSPREY. (MAORI, 1953z/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Sunderland.....

MOST SECRET.

18. 2. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN Contd.

Ships Attacked SIAMESE PRINCE. (torpedoed 17/2.) Contd.

Sunderland aircraft searching for SIAMESE PRINCE made contact with MISTRAL at 1005/18. One upturned lifeboat sighted in 59° 47' N, 11° 58' W. Visibility 5 miles to nil in showers. MISTRAL reported sighting nothing. (C. in C. Rosyth 2102/18, to MAORI, ZULU, etc.)

BLACK OSPREY.

British 5589 tons (straggler from H.X.107.) Following has been read, SSSS. Position Approx. 61. 13 N. 18 10 W, BLACK OSPREY torpedoed. (MAUDIE.S.(Brit. T.O.R.0231/18, BLACK OSPREY 0232/18.)

BLACK OSPREY torpedoed 061° 13' N, 018A, 10' W, at 0232/18, render assistance. (C. in C. W.A, 0257/18, to ARROW.)

If not in touch with SIAMESE PRINCE proceed forthwith to assistance of BLACK OSPREY torpedoed in 061° 30'(Sic.)N. 018° 10' W. at 0232/18. (C. in C. W.A.1820/18 to MISTRAL.)

Have searched down wind as far as 058° 47' N, 013° 00' W, and sighted much wreckage. Am now proceeding as ordered in your 1820/18. As fuel will not permit returning to Loch Ewe after this operation intend to proceed to Reykjavik. (Weather report). (MISTRAL, 1900Z/18 to C. in C.W.A.)

SEAFORTH.

British, 5459 tons, bound independently from Monrovia, Liberia, to Liverpool. Following has been read. S.S.S.S. Attack by submarine 58. 48 N, 18, 17, SEAFORTH Torpedoed. (Lyness W/T, 2040/18.)

Request you instruct MAORI or ZULU to proceed to assistance of s.s. SEAFORTH torpedoed in position 58° 48' N 18° 17' W, at 2042/18 B.S.T. No Western Approaches escort vessels are anywhere in the vicinity. (C. in C. W.A. 2120/18, to C. in C. H.F.)

/ZULU.....

MOST SECRET.

18. 2. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN Contd.

Ships attacked.
SEAFORTH.
(contd.)

ZULU and MAORI proceed to assistance of SEAFORTH torpedoed in position 58° 48' N, 18° 17' W, at 2042/18. (C. in C. H.F., 2253/18, to ZULU, MAORA.)

C. in C. W. A. 2120/18. Have detached ZULU to proceed to (group missing) of SEAFORTH. (MAORI, 2320/18 to C. in C.H.F.)

S/M's Reported.

One German U-Boat in 048° 30' N, 020° W, at 0009/17 now estimated homeward bound may be about 047° 30' N, 012° 30' W. (F.O.(S) 1407/18, to TIGRIS.)

1300. Civilian reports submarine surfaced at 1300/18, off Shader West Coast of Lewis proceeding toward Butt of Lewis, seen clearly. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1544/18 to A.C.O.S. etc.)

2041. Message AF position 58° 48' N. 18° 17' W. at 1941/18/2. G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2124/18.)

U-Boat torpedoed S.S.SEAFORTH in position 58° 48' N: 18° 17' W. at 1941/18 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2150/18, to C. in C. Plymouth, etc.)

Estimated
U/B.
dispositions.

German.
1 40 miles of 59° 53' N. 12° 13' W.
1 40 miles of 61° 13' N. 18° 10' W.
1 60 miles of 57° 30' N. 23° W.
1 60 miles of 56° 30' N. 20° 30' W.
1 in 48° 30' N. 20° W. at 0009/17, now estimated homeward bound, may be about 47° 30' N. 12° 30' W.
1 90 miles of 49° N. 32° W.
1 30 miles of 51° 30' N. 11° 30' W.
Northbound.
1 100 miles of 37° N. 19° W.

Italian - No information.
(D.D.I.C. 1308/18.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep off Mans & Hook

Three M.T.B's last night carried out a sweep off the Maas and Hook.

Sweep to Brown Ridge

Two M.T.B's last night swept from the Inner Gabbard through Gap E to Brown Ridge.

F.N. 11. Attacked by E-Boats.

Convoy F.N. 11 was extremely spread out last night due it is reported to bad visibility, ships being found up to 30 miles ahead of the Commodore, with stragglers astern. Two ships are reported torpedoed by E-Boat close to Sheringham buoy and 3 ships aground off Haisborough last night.

British Air Activity

Bad weather caused routine patrols to be cancelled and convoy escorts to be severely curtailed. Bomber Command operations last night were cancelled.

Enemy Air Activity

PUFFIN escorting T.H.V. TRITON was attacked in the Thames Estuary this afternoon, but was not damaged. It is believed she severely damaged her attacker.

SS GRACIA and HOUSATONIC in Convoy O.B. 28 7 were bombed 90 miles N.W. of Cape Wrath this evening. GRACIA was sunk and HOUSATONIC was last seen settling with a broken back.

/SS GARLINGE...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

SS GARLINGE in Convoy F.N. 11 was attacked twice this afternoon off Flamborough Head but no damage is reported. Low visibility prevented fighters from taking off to assist her.

SS ATHELSULTAN in Convoy E.N. 74 was bombed and damaged this morning off Firth of Forth.

SS KARANAN (Dutch 395 tons) is reported by Lloyds to have arrived at Falmouth today in tow of SS SUINT with her engines disabled by air attack.

Lowestoft was attacked again today. No damage was caused.

Plymouth was attacked this evening and some casualties were caused at the R.N. Hospital.

Mining

Operation
Z.M.E. 18

PLOVER laid mines in St. Georges Channel last night.

PELICAN was mined in the Thames Approaches today and was towed to Sheerness.

SS FULHAM II in Convoy F.N. 10 was mined off the mouth of the Tyne today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

C. in C., S.A. today proposed some amendments to the instructions for conduct of naval units when French submarines are encountered.

Mediterranean

Operation M.C. 8.

The operation of passing two battalions to Malta in GLOUCESTER, ORION and AJAX and the passage of BRECONSHIRE and CLAN MACAULAY from Malta to Alexandria began today. The operation serves to cover convoy A.S. 15.

Force A. (BARHAM, VALIANT and EAGLE) left Alexandria p.m. today to be about 180 miles north of Benghazi at daylight/21 to meet and cover the passage of BRECONSHIRE and CLAN MACAULAY which leaves Malta p.m/20 escorted by HAVOCK and HOTSPUR.

COVENTRY to join if weather permits in her temporarily repaired condition.

Force B (GLOUCESTER, AJAX, PERTH, NUBIAN, MOHAWK, DIAMOND) are due at Malta a.m/21 and to leave p.m/21 for Alexandria after disembarking troops, leaving DIAMOND to refit.

Battleship docking

A battleship docking programme is to be started during the coming dark night period, commencing with WARSPITE on 21/2.

F.A.A. Policy

C. in C., Med. reports that the present strategical situation in the Mediterranean calls for an organisation similar to the Coastal Command in Home Waters.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Destroyers for W.A. Command.

BEAGLE and BULLDOG are to be transferred to Western Approaches Command. C. in C. H.F. 2137/19 to R.A.D.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge".

At 1130/19. (D.C. 1208/19). At 2330/19. (D.C. 2334/19.)

Movements.

BRADFORD
JEANNIE
DEANS.

Your estimated position at 0405 201°. Dungeness 13 miles. (N.O.I.C. Dover 0412/19 to BRADFORD, J.DEANS.)

Ref. 0550 from JEANNIE DEANS. Last available estimates of position 5 miles 174° from Dungeness at 0510. (N.O.I.C. Dover 0629/19, to ? BRADFORD.)

CORINTHIAN.

CORINTHIAN'S 1500/17. In view of convoy situation for escort to U.K. intend CORINTHIAN to arrive Gibraltar 0800/26. (F.O.C.N.F. 1016/19.)

NAUTILUS.

To be sailed for Southend as soon as convenient for onward routeing and passage to Humber with first available F.N. Convoy. Mines are not repetition not to be embarked before sailing. (C. in C. Nore 1042/19.)

SANDHURST.

In tow of WATERMEYER sailed Methil for Londonderry 0730/today, in H.N.74. (C. in C. Rosyth 1055/19.)

CASTLETON.

My 0813/18, CASTLETON delayed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1263/19.)

/ALCANTARA.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

ALCANTARA. N.O. i/c Southampton 1217/17. Adty., 1402/18. It has now been found possible to amend programme of ALCANTARA so that ship sails from Portsmouth P.M./27, arriving Clyde A.M./1/3. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1507/19.)

Northern Patrol. 4 Trawlers on N.P. Line tonight (names) (A.C.O.S. 1584/19.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. Taking DIDO, BEDOUIN SOMALI, and NAPIER under her orders, QUEEN ELIZABETH is to sail from Rosyth in company at 1500/20, and proceed to Scapa, carry out power trials and arrive Hoxa Boom at 0730/21. (C. in C. Rosyth 1600/19.)

S/M's. Positions at 0800/20 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.(S) 1621/19.)

102 R.M. Bde. F.O.C.H.A. 1958/14, Following arrangements are to be made for disposal of Naval Personnel 102 R.M. Brigade and landing craft in KENYA and SOBIESKI on arrival at Clyde.(D.C.D.(H)1727/19.)

THUNDERBOLT. SURCOUF. Sailed escorted by SUNFLOWER in accordance with F.O.(S)' 1129/15.(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1810/19.)

Four Corvettes required for escort for convoys. Your 2248/10. PIMPERNEL and CORSOPSIS will sail with C.O.54. Propose sailing the fourth Corvette for Gibraltar with C.O.55. (C. in C. W.A. 2024/19 to Adty.)

/ELECTRA.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

ELECTRA to refit.

Adty. 1917/19. Proceed to Humber forthwith. (R.A.D) H.F. 2210/19 to ELECTRA.

ORDUNA.

A.M.1413/19, Lord Willingdon, staff and part of mission are on board ORDUNA. Request you will arrange A/S and A/C protection so far as possible. (D.T.D. 2218/19, to C. in C. W.A.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

2 ships torpedoed by E-Boats	2 heavy explosions heard and possible fast hydrophone effect, investigated as far possible and can find nothing damaged but visibility is very poor. My position 57 C Buoy. (VIVIEN 0255/19) SS SPARTA reports that two unknown ships were torpedoed by E-Boats at 0300 today off Sheringham Bell Buoy. (F.O. Humber 1846/19)
M.T.B. Sweeps	Harwich 19/2 arrival M.T.B. 31 and 32 at 0935 WIDGEON at 0805. M.T.B. 42 and 43 at 1115. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1116/19) My 1146/18 operation carried out in poor visibility. Report blank. (C. in C., Nore 1135/19)
Patrol	WIVERN VANSITTART leave Needles 1830/19 to patrol Southward of Group of 15 Merchant vessels which leaves Dartmouth 1820/19. Arrives Needles 0800/20. Route. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1307/19)
P.Y.C.	My 1430/19, Operation P.Y.C. cancelled. (N.O.I.C., Harwich, 1937/19)

British Air Activity

Convoy Escorts	One Anson A/C dor O.B. 287 and one Anson A/C for E.N. 73 should arrive with their convoys approximately 1200/19. No other A/C from 18 group able to operate owing to weather conditions. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1104/19)
Lorient	As reconnaissance of Lorient shows that 10 U-Boats were present on 15/2 and that there was more railway activity near the U-Boat berths than had previously been observed, request that Bomber Command may be asked to attack Lorient at first opportunity. (C. in C., Plymouth, 1318/19)

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Lowestoft bombed	Lowestoft bombed at 1205. (N.O.I.C., Lowestoft, 1225/19)
ATHELSULTAN	(British Tanker, 8882 tons) Attacked by J.U. 88 in convoy E.N. 74 in 120° 2.1/4 miles from May Island at 1025 today Two very heavy delay action bombs missed by 10 feet. No other ships attacked in convoy. Plane dived to 150 feet before attacking. Ship holed in two places above waterline and underwater damage considered certain. Considerable superficial and internal damage including compasses but engines intact. No casualties. (N.O.I.C., Methil 1643/19)
Convoy E.N. Odd	Fighter aircraft have been despatched to assist. (Lyness 1312/19)
Convoy F.N. Even	Request fighter assistance. Enemy aircraft Bombing. 51° 59' N., 1° 44' E. (VALOROUS 1425/19) Convoy AGENT. 2 Enemy Aircraft. Position 51° 55' N., 1° 27' E. (EGLINTON 1548/19)
GRACIA Sunk HOUSATONIC Bombed	GRACIA sunk by enemy aircraft. HOUSATONIC bombed still afloat but settling - with back broken - position 059° 39' N., 007° 24' W., Consider salvage impossible. Shall I sink her. Have 80 survivors. Where will I land them. Some injured, one critically. (PERIWINKLE 1500/19 to C. in C., W.A.) Your 1500/19. Do not sink. Stand by her. Tug SALVONIA should arrive in the morning. Survivors will be landed at Thurso. (C. in C., W.A., 1906/19 to PERIWINKLE) Your 1340/19. Proceed to assist HOUSATONIC as soon as possible. PERIWINKLE is standing by her. Report when you can proceed. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1930/19 to SALVONIA)

/Hasten.....

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

GRACIA Sunk HOUSTATONIC Bombed - Contd.	Hasten reply to my 1930/19. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2340/19 to SALVONIA)
GARLINGE	(British, 2012 tons) 5 miles off Flamborough Head GARLINGE attacked by bomber. (Portishead Radio 1510/19) GARLINGE still being attacked by Bomber off Flamborough Head. (Lyness W/T 1552/19)
TRITON PUFFIN	2 Enemy aircraft Convoy ALPHA. Position 51° 33' N., 1° 33' E., (PUFFIN 1542/19) Convoy ALPHA requests fighter assistance (PUFFIN 1610/19) Fighter aircraft despatched. (Nore W/T 1625/19) No damage. One Junkers 88 believed severely damaged, both engines smoking and faltering. (PUFFIN 1645/19)
Convoy F.N. Even	One enemy aircraft height 2000 ft. shadowing convoy in 52° 13' N., 1; 56' E., (VALOROUS 1655/19) A/C reports at 1415 in about 52° 45' N., 1° E., E/A dropped 2 bombs or possibly mines from about 3000 ft. These fell about 2-3 miles ahead of convoy and E/A made off in an easterly direction. (CHatham A.C.H.Q., 1907/19)
Lowestoft. Yarmouth. Skegness. A/A Defences.	Your 1746/18. Requirement of Lowestoft and Yarmouth fully appreciated but heavy gun defences could only be provided at present by removing them from some other vital area. It is undesirable and tactically unsound continuously to move mobile units of A.A. Command from the defence of one vital area solely because the enemy is attacking another. Home Forces have, however, been asked to move further light A.A. into area and major question of permanent provision of heavy A.A. defences will be discussed by C.O.S. (A.A.) Sub Committee. System outlined in Admty 1953/19 will, however, increase defence value of existing A.A. guns including those of ships in harbour.

/2.....

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Lowestoft Yarmouth Skegness A/A Defences- Contd.	2. As regards ROYAL ARTHUR, existing resources do not permit of A.A. gun defences being provided for personnel establishments. Neither is it policy so to do. (D. of L.D., 1958/19 to C. in C., Nore.)
Enemy A/C Report	COUNTERFEIT (N.I.D. 10 1958/19 to Ships Area B.)
Plymouth R.N.Hospital Bombed	Raid 1911/19. One 50 K.G.H.E. hit "K" block R.N. Hospital. One rating killed 5 slightly wounded. (C. in C., Plymouth 2320/19)

Mining

Z.M.E. 18	Operation completed (PLOVER 0522/19)
Thames Estuary	Two red mines detonated by LL gear. A. At 1905/18 in 250° Knob Bell buoy 7 cables. B. At 1950/18 in 038° N., Shingles buoy 3 cables. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1000/19)
PELICAN	(Sloop) Damaged by Mine in the Thames Estuary at 1200/19 (D.S. 534)
	LL Trawler detonated one red mine at 2135/18 in 224° B. 7 buoy 1 mile. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1107/19)
Falmouth	Port of Falmouth now open to Diesel Engine Ships. (F.O.I.C., Falmouth 1133/19)
FULHAM II	(British, 1596 tons) Mined East of Tyne. Not in immediate danger of sinking. Anchored south of Tyne - Tugs proceeding. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1201/19)

/Spurn Point.....

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Spurn Point	Mine exploded at 1151/19 in 280° Spurn Point 4.1 miles. (F.O.Humber, 1840/19)
Minelaying off Brest	Sailed 1545 KELLY, JACKAL, KASHMIR, KIPLING, 1635 INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, ICARUS. (C. in C., Plymouth 1906/19)
Aberdeen	Port closed, due to suspected minelaying by enemy aircraft. (N.O.I.C., Aberdeen 2012/19)

Enemy Intelligence

Brest	R/C at 1120. HIPPER Cruiser in Dock. (A.C.H.Q.,,Plymouth 1235/19 P.R.U. St. Eval, 1500/19)
DEUTSCHLAND SCHARNHORST GNEISENAU Also Movement to Northern Norway.	New edition of Almanacco Navale shows ships described as follows. Photographs are undated. Two There has been recent evidence of conveyance by sea of military stores to north Norway greatly in excess of normal requirements. (D. 2.) Three, German Admiral commanding coast of Norway has just visited region having travelled from Oslo by train via Sweden (A.1.) (N.A. Stockholm 1720/19)

Miscellaneous

Flashes off Bexhill	Investigating three flashes 120° 4 miles from Bexhill seen by local C.G. Bexhill and C.G. St. Leonards. (N.O.I.C., Newhaven, 0815/19)
Red Flare seen.	Red flare showing at 0130 G.M.T. 19th in 061° 08' N., 019° W. (SAN EMILANO 0835/19)

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Movements Forecast

My 1628/23/1. Signals should be prefixed "SPECIAL MOVEMENTS FORECAST" instead of "Admiralty's 1628/23/1". These forecasts should include, immediately after each ship's name, an indication of the importance of her contents (either personnel or supplies) so that Naval Authorities concerned may determine the appropriate action for her safety. (D.T.D. 1211/19 to C. in C's etc.)

Precautions in event of Invasion.

In order to ensure that necessary measures to be taken with merchant shipping in the event of invasion are understood by all concerned F.O.I.C's are requested to hold meetings to discuss these with the various organisations in the Ports representing the Ministry of Shipping together with other representative officials concerned.

2. Memorandum of 12/2 from Ministry of Shipping gives notes for guidance. Important these should be co-ordinated with Admiralty instructions, notably my 2109/6/7 and A.L. M/TD 02010/41 of 6/2.

3. Para 3a of Ministry of Shipping Memorandum refers to ports of refuge nominated by F.O i/c. Such ports would be nominated by Admiralty and would be the emergency anchorages mentioned in A.L. M/TD 210/40.

4. Most desirable that Allied ships and crews should be treated in a similar manner to British except where inadvisable for security reasons.
(D.T.D. 1247/19)

Expediting Movements

Movements of merchant shipping must be hastened. One cause of delay is frequent omission of N.C.S.O. from addresses of messages relating to movements. Request following instructions be rigorously enforced.
(D.T.D. 1813/19 to C. in C's etc.)

/Submarine....

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

Submarine Escorts	Western Approaches convoy instructions section I part two Cancel first para and substitute. At all times when a close escort is present with a convoy the submarine is to be stationed 3 cables on port beam of commodore, adjacent to column being opened out accordingly. In the event of attack by U-Boat by day or night the submarine is to endeavour to maintain this position and is also to switch on navigation lights to establish her identity if she considers herself endangered by one of our own ships. Message 25 N. (C. in C., W.A., 2006/19)

Coastal Convoys

F.S. 17	Sailed 2300/18. 14 ships (N.C.S.O., Methil, 0015/19) List (1122/19) List and destinations (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1524/19) Ships joining Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber 1714/19)
12 M.V's.	Night movements, Channel. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0114/19)
F.N. 11.	E.T.A. (VIVIEN, 0200/19, to N.O.I.C. Humber) Spread out due to bad visibility (VIVIEN, 1415/19) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1729/19)
O.B.C. 288	0304/19. Escorts GEORGETOWN, etc. 24 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0403/19) List (1225/19) Left (A.B.O., Greenock, 2115/19)
O.B.O. 288	0745/19. Escort SNOWDROP, 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 0800/19)
F.N. 12	Left with ATHENIAN (N.C.S.O. Thames, 0835/19). 0850/19, 17 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames, 0947/19). List 1017/19) VICEROY to join as escort. (C. in C., Rosyth 1443/19) Joining from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber 1716/19) Position, snowstorm (VICEROY, 1950/19)

/E.N. 74½....

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

Coastal Convoys-Contd.

E.N. 74.	0715/19. Escorts 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0759/19) List (1000/19) Commodore (1705/19) Position (S.O. of Escort, 2230/19)
W.N. 87.	List (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0931/19) Left (A.B.O., Greenock, 2115/19)
F.N. 10.	Arrived 0945/19. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0954/19) Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1808/19)
E.N. 75.	Fast ships given alternative routes to Oban to connect O.B. 290. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1207/19) JASON, A/A escort (C. in C., Rosyth 1615/19)
C.W. 26.	1155/19, 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1216/19) List (1231/19) E.T.A. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1343/19) Dover escorts (V.A.Dover 1759/19) Passed Dover (V.A.,Dover 2101/19)
13 M.V'S.	(C. in C., Portsmouth 1343/19) (C. in C., Portsmouth 1352/19)
W.N. 87 (O)	Sailed 1430/19, escort SALTERELLO (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1446/19) Destinations (1501/9)
F.S. 16.	Destinations (N.C.S.O. Humber 1502/19)
F.S. 17. E.N. 74. F.N. 11. F.N. 12.	Positions (C. in C., Rosyth, 1552/19, 1632/19)
W.N. 88.	JASON additional A/A escort (C. in C., Rosyth 1615/19)
F.N. 12.A.	My 1745/17) (Forecast) for F.N. 13 read F.N. 12 A (C. in C., Rosyth 1907/19)

/Ocean Convoys....

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys-Contd.

Ocean Convoys

S.C. 21.	Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0930/19) (N.O.I.C., Barry 1645/19) (N.C.S.O., Swansea, 1710/19) (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1850/19 2027/19)
O.B. 288.	1000/19, unescorted, 1. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1030/19, 1530/19) Name (1200/19)
O.B. 289.	Escort MALCOLM etc. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1101/19)
H.G. 53.	Destinations (D.T.D.,1141/19)
O.B. 287	3 ships returned, weather (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1255/19)
H.G. 54.	Delayed another 24 hours, weather. (F.O.C.N.A., 1312/19)
H.X. 110	Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1508/19) Ships with munitions. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1538/19)
H.X. 111	1 ship with explosives. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1511/19)

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

JESSMORE. (British 4099 tons). In collision with another ship of O.C.53 in 054° N., 016° 56' W. at 0400/19. Holed and making water unable to go ahead request tugs.
SCIMITAR standing by and attempting towing.
(SCIMITAR 0611/19).
Proceed with all despatch. Tugs are to keep in company.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0856/19 to ASSURANCE, SUPERMAN).
Sailed ASSURANCE and SUPERMAN from Campbeltown at 0945.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1016/19).
JESSMORE in tow. p.c. and s. 053° 47'N., 016° 54'W. 100° 2 knots. DIANELLA in company.
(SCIMITAR 1156/19).
My 0856. P.C. and S. of S.S. JESSMORE in tow of SCIMITAR 053° 47'N., 076° 54'W. 100° 2 knots at 1156 today.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1645/19 to ASSURANCE).

LAFFORD. My 1442/18. Departure tug FOREMOST 22 towing LAFFORD.
(V.A. Dover, 0720/19).

MARIE ELLENA. (H.M.Drifter) Has been ordered to return to Tilbury owing to machinery defects.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1008/19, F.O.I.C. London 1011/19).

JERNLAND. (Norwegian 1289 tons). Tug SEA GIANT sailed 1042 to tow JERNLAND broken down off Blyth to Tyne.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1117/19).
My 1117/19. SEA GIANT returned to Tyne. Unable to contact JERNLAND owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1837/19).

MAIDSTONE. F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 1504/18. It was understood that eight to ten days would be available. This period is desirable to

/make

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

MAIDSTONE. (Contd.)	make good outstanding items in view of future service of ship. (R.A.D. 1145/19).
SALVONIA.	Have engine defect. Proceeding into West Loch Tarbet Harris to effect temporarily repairs. (SALVONIA, 1340/19).
Motor Boat and Wreckage.	Today, Minesweeping trawler reports picking up small motor boat close to 57 C Buoy marked KOBENHAVN EBRO, also much floating wreckage in vicinity. (F.O. Humber, 1610/19).
LORD PLENDER TRITON.	Trawler LORD PLENDER and T.H.V.TRITON were in collision 11/2. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1748/19).
MIDDLETON.	Wreckage washed ashore near Larne includes one small Chock with S.S. MIDDLETON painted on end cases of medical comforts and surgical instruments. Has not been in water long. Request information. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1820/19).
BOWNET PUNNET.	My 1358/19. BOWNET has engine defects which are being repaired. B.D.V. PUNNET has arrived with injured seaman and smashed lifeboat. It is intended to sail both vessels p.m. Friday. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1825/19).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

PLM.13
LORIENT
intercepted.

Two French ships PLM.13, and LORIENT Casablanca to Dakar 028° 12'N., 012° 23'W., 2000/18, and 2359/18, sent to Gibraltar. E.T.A. noon/23, speed 7 knots. Routed 035° 50'N., 011° 00'W. Suggest I R/V with FORT RICHE PANSE 033° 23'N., 011° 30'W. 1600/20. These two ships intended to scuttle. Am short handed. Should come to Gibraltar to collect my guard. Request further instructions.
(?N.P.) CHATEAU YQUEM probably leaving Casablanca tomorrow for Nantes, German mail and cargo.
(MARSDALE, 1100/19 to V.A.N.P.)

Request you will take such action as you consider necessary on REGISTAN's 1230/18 and MARSDALE'S 1100/19.
(D.O.D.(F) 2310/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Treatment of French Submarines.

1. Instructions about submarines of neutral countries including France are that when outside territorial waters unless escorted b surface warships they are to be treated as hostile.

2. Also Vichy French Merchant Ships when escorted by warships are not to be interfer with except by order of Admiralty. French submarines have recently been reported at Conakry; possible they will be employed in escorting merchant ships without surface warships.

3. With submarines at Conakry, quite likel they will be met with unescorted at sea by aircraft outside territorial limits but inside 20 miles from the coast, inside whic British warships have been instructed not t approach without special orders. This is of special importance now that a French squadron may be at Freetown.

4. These points are brought up in view of emphasis placed on avoiding any incident wi Vichy French in Admiralty 2206/8/1.

/5.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Contd.)

Treatment of French Submarines. (Contd.)

5. Propose in view of above that for the present:- (a) if the identity of French submarines accompanying French Merchant ships is established though with no surface warship escort neither the French Submarine nor the merchant ships will be interfered with. (b) That if submarines at any time are clearly established to be French no furthe hostile action shall be taken unless they dive and there is at the same time possibilit of attack on any of our ships or unless they are in the immediate neighbourhood of our own Free French Coasts. (k) Hostile action by aircraft against submarines shall not be taken within 20 miles of Vichy French Ports unless the submarine is thought to be an enemy or comes under the last part of (b). (C.in C. S.A. 1421N/19 to Admty).

North Atlantic.

BELGIQUE.

Your 1951/15. (Re Belgian S.S. BELGIQUE). Crew willing to proceed to port. (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/19 to Admty).

VELOX WRESTLER.

Your 1923/5, and my 2316/15. VELOX and WRESTLER are more suitable ships for service on South Atlantic Station and it is intended that these ships relieve WISHART and VIDETTE when available. (F.O.C.N.A. 1218/19 to C.in C. S.A.)

RESOLUTION.

My 1800/17. Anticipate sailing RESOLUTION p.m./23 escorted by JUPITER JERSEY to U.K. and two additional destroyers as far as R/V position. (F.O.C.N.A. 1220/19 to A.C.W.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ISIS ENCOUNTER.	A.M.0138/2. Anticipate sailing ISIS, ENCOUNTER for Freetown 24/2. (F.O.C.N.A. 1222/19 to C.in C. S.A.)
BLAIR ATHOLL and ships of S.L.S.64 attacked by raider 12/2.	Your 1941/17. Request you will report estimated ready to sail dates of remaining ships. (D.T.D. 1244/19 to Consul-Funchal). Your 1246/19. All remaining ships except Greek ship POLYKTOR short of life-boats. British ships MARGOT VOLTURNO and Greek ship ANNA MAZARAKI all have no M.V.Confidential Books vide my 1815/19. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1917/19). For Greek ANNA MAZARAKI. Repair or replace lifeboats, consult British Consul, haste essential, LYKIARDOPULO. (D.T.D. 1954/19 to Consul, Funchal).
M/Ls.	Admty. 1959/5. Request information when and how third M.L. flotilla are expected to leave U.K. (F.O.C.N.A. 1256/19 to R.A.C.F. Portland).
MALAYA.	My 1930/17. At 1600/18. MALAYA had been delayed three hours by weather. MALAYA expects to make up time to reach R/V position at 1000/21 but if unable intends to intercept convoy later in the day. MALAYA passed above information to me via local escort. (F.O.C.N.A. 1616/19 to S.O.Force H.)
ISIS. O.G.52.	Gibraltar 19/2 1640 departure ISIS to R/V with O.G.52 20/2. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1650/19).
Suspicious Ship.	Passengers from American liner EXETER report suspicious vessel closed latter at more than 16 knots south of Azores a.m./16 and the made off. (Description). (N.A. Lisbon, 1658/19).
Air Report.	Flying curtailed by weather. (200 Group 1700/19).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ASAKA. — Japanese ship will be in position 38° 30'N., 20° W., at 2000 G.M.T./19 steering 090° direct to Lisbon at 15.3 knots. Ensign at gaff will be illuminated. Ship is not to be interfered with.
(D.O.D.(F) 1913/19 to N.A.Station).
(See also China).

CAMPOS intercepted by MARON. — Am following ship giving name Brazilian CAMPOS Pernambuco for Lisbon, cannot identify, intend boarding at daylight, my p.c. and s. are at or about 2100 G.M.T. 032° 23'N., 012° 44'W. 023° 11½ knots, request information.
(MARON 2100/19 to Admty, F.O.C.N.P. F.O.C.N.A)

South Atlantic.

Suspect Ships. — Your 1818/16. Presume this suspect list has no connection with category B, and therefore does not involve exclusion from convoy. Dutch ship HOOGKERK sailed in S.L.66.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 0955/19 to Admty).

S.L. and S.L.S.66. — List of Absentees and reasons.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1127/19).

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA. — Simonstown arrival 19/2 to embark rangefinders stores and carry out minor repairs.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1202Z/19 to Admty etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CHARLES H. CRAMP, SCOTTISH TRADER. "Q" report.	Your 1150/17 description fits U.S. CHARLES H. CRAMP and no doubt now exists that this ship and SCOTTISH TRADER were the ships concerned in my 1046/28/1 (S.O.(I) Capetown 1526B /19).
CHRISTIAN HUYGENS, DORSETSHIRE.	F.O.I.C. Simonstown reports naval draft of approx. 600 officers and ratings embarked in CHRISTIAN HUYGENS from Port Said to U.K. Appears no prospect of redistributing this draft on other transports without considerable delay. Should ship be sailed from Cape to Freetown without escort? DORSETSHIRE should be at Simonstown about (date) and any period in harbour for self refit and dockyard help would be of value. My 2017/2 refers. For consideration that DORSETSHIRE should wait at Simonstown and escort CHRISTIAN HUYGENS to Freetown or on to U.K. (C.in C. S.A. 2307/19 to Admty).

Mediterranean.

Benghazi.	Only limited use of harbour possible without extensive salvage and repairs. (D.O.R. 19/2).
Rhodes bombed Benghazi A/C mining.	Operational summary No. 254 up to 1200 hours 19/2/1941. Night 17/18 Feb. One Wellington dropped 2760 lbs. of bombs on Rhodes Harbour near seaplane hangar and one South side of Commercial Harbour starting fires. Day 18/2 Enemy made two mine-laying attacks on Benghazi Harbour. 5 Australian Hurricanes intercepted first raid shooting down 1 enemy aircraft probably destroying two more and damaging & further 4. A.A. shot down one JU.87. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1136/19).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Boom Defences.	Deficiencies in stores in BENALDER. (B.D.O. Beyoglu, 1214/19 to Admty).
Guns.	Following shipments of guns have been made. (D.D.A.S.(L) 1758/19 to C.in C. Med.)
"Albacores".	Following is shipment programme for Middle East. (D.N.A.D. 1800/19 to C.in C. Med.)
Signal Procedure.	My 1736/19. In view of position of Greek and other possible Allies in Mediterranean request your views regarding introduction of this procedure on Mediterranean Station. (D.S.D. 1814/19 to C.in C. Med.)
A.M.15.	A.M.15 arrived (February 18?). (Cairo 1852/19 to Admty).
Mines Exploded, Malta.	My 1910/17. Two mines in southern side entrance to Marsamxett Harbour, one mine in entrance Grand Harbour and one mine close inshore off Ricasoli exploded almost simultaneously at 1123A/19. The first three were in positions marked down after raid. No sweeping was in progress and no ships or boats were near. Suggested cause for explosions is mines were all acoustic and that vibrations of correct frequencies were thrown off breakwater by beat of sea or that there was an earth tremor. The bottom is rocky and Malta has some strata of rock which appears to conduct vibration very efficiently. Request Admiralty's remarks. Believe Harbour entrances are now clear of mines but am continuing sweeping with Skid and Kango hammer in case all were not observed by look-out. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2208/19 to C.in C. Med. Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Egypt P. and T.C.	D. of S.T's 2102/31/1. 1. Main functions of Port and Transit Committee:- (C.in C. Med., 2340/19 to D. of S.T. etc.)
Air Requirements and Policy.	(C.in C. Med., 2345/19 to Admty). See Mediterranean Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

GOTUNFJELL. Due to sail from Bahrein about Mid-February for Beira or Lourenco Marques with diesel, fuel, and gasoline. Evidence indicates use of (? Lourenco Marques) as transhipping port for enemy trade and suggest possibility of this fuel being chief enemy use. (Capt O.S. Singapore 0723Z/19 to C. in C.E.I) Your 0723/19. Am passing this signal to Consular Shipping Adviser Lourenco Marques for his comments. (S.O.I. Capetown 1703/19).

KANDAHAR. EMERALD. W.S.5B.X. My 1141/6 para. 4. KANDAHAR is to rendezvous with EMERALD and W.S.5.B.X. in position 004° 08' S. 040° 08' at 0400Z/22 and is to remain with convoy, cruising as arranged by EMERALD until EMERALD rejoins after refuelling. After EMERALD rejoins KANDAHAR is to proceed Aden in accordance with my 0752/17. (C. in C. E.I. 0800Z/19 to EMERALD, KANDAHAR).

HERMES, HAWKINS. Mombasa arrived 19/2 0625 G.M.T. (N.O.I.C. East Africa 0910Z/19).

BARJORA. Your 2130/14. BARJORA replaces SUISANG. (S.S.T.O. India 1117Z/19 to Admty).

KARCHI. Sailed in accordance with C. in C. E.I. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1450Z/19).

Force W. Force T. H.M. Ships taking part in Italian Somaliland operations are to be known as Force W. (ii) HERMES and ENTERPRISE when acting as a (? unit) are to be known as Force T. (iii) Above to come into force 0001 G.M.T/22. (C. in C. E.I. 1500Z/19 to E.I. Sqdn).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

SCOTIA.	Your 1854/17 (SCOTIA ordered by naval authorities to Hong Kong from Nagasaki) SCOTIA nowhas orders to complete discharge before sailing for San Pedro. (C. in C. China 0301Z/19 to Admty).
Free French.	From Baron to Gen. de Gaulle, No 51 dated 18/2. Instructions contained in your 8/2 have been carried out. (C. in C. China 0937/19 to Admty).
ASAKA.	My 1731/22/1. Ministry of Marine informs me special service ship ASAKA will be in 38° 30'N. 20° W. at 200 G.M.T/19 steering 090° direct to Lisbon at 15.5 knots. Ensign at Gaff will be illuminated. (N.A., Tokyo, 1141/19 to Admty) (See also North Atlantic).
D'ARTAGNAN.	Shanghai Telegrams No. 1138 of 27/12/40 and 122 of 8/2 have been passed to you. It would seem undesirable to risk D'ARTAGNAN being immobilized at Shanghai through recruitment of members of the crew there for Free French Forces, Request your comments. (D.T.D. 1246/19 to C. in C. China).
U.S. Navy Co-operation.	My 1721/15. Following are distribution details of books referred to in para. one of my 1908/11. (D.N.I. 1547/19 to C. in C. China).
Flying Boats.	Re bases. (Air Ministry 1720/19 to Easfar, Singapore) See Operations Volume.
Air Sqdns.	Preparations, ground organisation, etc, for possible removal from Malaya to Burma. Cannot reply on sea communications to move ground organisation in time of war. (C. in C. Far East to W.O. and Air Min., 1818/19).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

TARIA (bombed 18/2, Home Commands)	German radio report states S.S. TARIA sunk. Oil Company anxious for information and if authentic list of survivors. (S.N.O. Curacao, 1311/19 to Admty).
RAMILLIES. BATORY. FORTH.	Your 1705/17. Concur R.V. (position and date) (D.O.D.H. 1728/19 to R.A. 3.B.S. C. in C. W.A. RAMILLIES) (See Operations Volume).
Surcout to be informed of movements of our own and enemy forces.	Request you will comply with F.O.(S)'s 1549/14 para. 3. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1633/19 to B.S.3).
Japanese Buying Charts.	Following from San Pedro:- Local Chart Depot reports extraordinary demand for Charts by Japanese Masters particularly those of South and Central America and Western Pacific. Also reporting that ships are keeping to minimum 500 tons bunkers. (Ends). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1649/19 to Capt O.S. Singapore).

Australia.

Mines.	Following have been swept to date - off Adelaide, 2; Melbourne, 18; between Sydney and Newcastle, 3; off Hobart, 1. Six drifting mines have been destroyed at various places and one has been washed ashore and dismantled. (D.S. 533).
ACHILLES. CALIFORNIA STAR.	ACHILLES left Sydney 0850Z/18 for Auckland is escorting CALIFORNIA STAR bound for New Plymouth. (A.C.N.B. 0352Z/19 to Admty etc).
U.S. 10.	Australian requirements. Proposals. (A.C.N.B. 1207Z/19) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

NORDERNEY. Following from S.C.(I) Kingston Jamaica Begins. My 1655/11 Curacao passed report from Governor of Surinam that NORDERNEY ready to sail 15/2 for Japan cargo rubber oil skins. 1118/18. (Ends).
(C.in C. A.W.I. 0108/19 to R.A.S.A.D.)

NORDERNEY, BABITONGA, DRESDEN, WINDHUK. My 1216/5 present visible activity Axial ships Brazil limited to the following:

NORDERNEY at Para keeping steam cargo incomplete but agents paying abnormal prices for rubber and other commodities.

BABITONGA at Santos completed loading 986 tons diesel in drums 18/2.

Ambassador has made formal approach to Brazilian Government endeavouring to secure internment.

BABITONGA and DRESDEN can sail with little warning.

WINDHUK under embargo being watched closely by Brazilian authorities.

CONTE GRANDE at Santos endeavouring to obtain 1,000 tons fuel oil but sill being rationed to 300 tons per month.

SAINT DOMINQUE arrived from Martinque 19/2 endeavour to detain.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1801/19).

TRAPANI. Arrived 18/2. (Valencia 2010/19).

SPEZIA. Arrived 19/2. (Valencia 2010/19).

SAVONA. Left 18/2 for Burriana. (Valencia 2010/19).

BABITONGA. NORDERNEY. My 1424/13. Santos reports that BABITONGA has completed loading oil and is remoored

/in

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

BABITONGA
NORDERNEY.
(Contd.)

in river.
My 1454/14. Para reports that NORDERNEY has drawn fires.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2031Z/19 to Admty).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CONTE GRANDE (N.A. Rio 1801/19). See German Merchant Ships.

LUIGI. Arrived 18/2. (Valencia 2010/19).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

BENTY. Following from Navy Office from Dakar 17/2 depart BENTY for French Guinna.
(N.A.Washington, 1330/19 to Admty).

SAINT DOMINIQUE. (N.A.Rio 1801/19) See German Merchant Ships.
SAINT DOMINIQUE arrived unescorted today 19/2 from Martinique.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2024Z/19).

L'ORAGE, AVANT GARDE, OCTANE, SURIOT, CHANTILLY, CANTAL, URANIA, ROSE SCHIAFFINO, FORT RICHEPANSE. Your 1850/15. (re ships for service).
Following French shipping totalling some 21500 tons is available at Gibraltar the reference after the ships is the signal requesting crews. L'ORAGE and AVANT GARDE 2112/8/1 and 1852/28/1, OCTANE and SURIOT 1250/16/1, CHANTILLY CANTAL and URANIA 1702/22/1, ROSE SCHIAFFINO 1244/2/2. No crews have yet arrived all local resources have been exhausted by sailing to U.K. CHARLES PLUMIER, JOSEPH DUHAMEL and SENATEUR DUHAMEL. My 1842/22/1 refers. Crew may also be required for FORT RICHEPANSE now being sent in to Gibraltar under armed guard.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1829/19 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.	
SIAMESE PRINCE. (Torpedoed 17/2).	Return to Campbeltown acknowledge. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0143/19 to SALVONIA). Proceed to position 059° 51 N., 012° 13'W and R/V with DANEMAN searching for survivors of SIAMESE PRINCE. If no further signs of survivors rejoin H.X.107. (C.in C. W.A. 1035/19 to ARROW). If contact with ARROW has not been made return to base along probable route of H.X. 107. (C.in C. W.A. 2224/19 to DANEMAN, ARROW).
SEAFORTH (torpedoed 18/2).	SEAFORTH sailed 3/2. What speed did Master declare? (D.T.D. 1817/19 to N.C.S.O. Freetown). Have searched an area S.E. from SEAFORTH position to depth 40 miles width 30 miles. Some wreckage seen but not identified as from SEAFORTH. Have not sighted MAORI since being(?forcibly) separated at 2300/18. Myp.c. and s. at 2000/19 058° 35'N., 018° 11'W., 030° 13 knots. Intend to carry A/S search as ordered in your 0215/18. (Search for survivors of SIAMESE PRINCE. A/S search afterwards). (ZULU, 2115/19 to C.in C. H.F.) (Note:-) Following made. For SEAFORTH only (on 14/2:-) My 1627/10 move position X 018° 30 miles and position Y 019° 40 miles. From Q proceed through these new positions and then as ordered. (D.T.D. 1952/14).
BLACK OSPREY. (Torpedoed 18/2).	Your 1820/18. Searched 85 miles to leeward of Birkenhead Osprey ?(BLACK OSPREY) position. Acres of wreckage found 060° 45'N. 018° 55'W. including lifebuoys and empty rafts. Upturned boats as in my 1215. Search abandoned due to fuel and steering breakdown. Require on arrival at Reykjavik assistance. (MISTRAL 1915Z/19 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Submarines Reported.

0720 by STARSTONE. Following has been read.
SSSS 55.22 N., 33.35 W. STARSTONE, submarine sighted.
(Lyness W/T T.O.R. 0720/19).
Admiralty message A.F. position 55° 22'N., 33° 35'W. at 0625/19/2 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0749/19).
U/Boat reported by S.S. STARSTONE in 55° 22'N 33° 35'W. at 0625/19 G.M.T. may be SEVERN escorting S.C.22.
(D.D.I.C. 0821/19).

16/2. Submarine sighted on 16/2 south of Island of Terceira, Azores. A.C.
(N.A.Lisbon, 1232/19 to Admty).

0010/16. Norwegian Vessel HOSDA reports sighting submarine on surface at 0010/16 in position 57° 58'N., 9° 10'W.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1743/19).

Recent indications suggest possibility that more than one Italian U/B may be on anti-submarine patrol in Bay of Biscay. Impossible to estimate patrol zones.
(D.D.I.C. 1923/19 to TIGRIS).

2040. By D/F at 2040/19 position of probable U/Boat was approx. 51° 30'N., 19°-21° W.
(D.D.I.C. 2302/19).

Estimated U/Boat dispositions.

GERMAN.

One in 58° 48'N., 18° 17'W. at 2041/18 may be the one in 59° 53'N., 12° 13'W. at 1946/17.

/one

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions. (Contd.)

GERMAN.

One 60° 30'N., - 61° 30'N., 15° W. - 18° W.
Two 55° 30'N., - 58° 30'N., 20° W. - 24° W.
One 100 miles of 49° N., 30° W.
Possibly one 60 miles of 55° N., 12° 30'W.
One 60 miles of 47° 30'N., 9° W.
One 100 miles of 40° N., 15° W. homeward bound.

ITALIAN.

There are indications that 6 or 7 may be at sea whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1331/19).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.2.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

QUEEN ELIZABETH, escorted by DIDO and 3 destroyers, left Rosyth at 1520 today for Scapa and is to carry out Power Trials on passage. Oropesa Searches of the War Channel from the Firth of Forth to Duncansby Head are expected to be completed by 1800 accordingly.

With the object of destroying Enemy Aircraft PEGASUS is to sail with Convoy O.B. 291 and is to return to the Clyde with convoy S.L. 65.

F.O.I.C., Yarmouth points out that Trawlers off that port have been bombed throughout today and has requested that as there are now no A/A shore defences there of any sort, some Mobile Balloons and light A/A Guns may be sent there soon.

An unprecedented fall of snow in the Newcastle area yesterday and today will cause the dates of completion of all ships under repair in the area to be affected.

British Air Activity

Operations of Coastal Command were greatly hampered today by bad weather. Blenheims attacked Brest last night. Bomber Command carried out no operations last night or today, on account of bad weather.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.2.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

The attacks on Plymouth (see 19/1) by 50 to 75 aircraft continued till 0600 this morning, causing considerable damage to the R.N. Hospital there. At Falmouth last night night 2 H.E. Bombs in the Dockyard badly damaged the plate-fitting ship, but caused no damage to ships and no casualties; and at Swansea the tug QUEEN IX was sunk and some slight damage done to the Docks.

Convoy F.S. 16 was attacked at 1102 this morning off Harwich without result, the two bombs dropped failing to explode. Convoy O.B. 287 was attacked this morning to the S.W. of the Faeroes, in 12° W., SS St. ROSARIO and ROSENBORG were damaged and returned to the Clyde: tanker D.L. Harper was also damaged but continued her voyage. The attack was made by an aircraft believed to be operating from Stavanger.

The SS GREENLAND, 1281 tons, was attacked at 1145 today when 80 miles 308° from the Butt of Lewis, suffering 4 casualties but no damage to the ship.

SS RIGMOR was bombed this evening off Falmouth and is reported to be sinking, but BRITISH SPLENDOUR (Tanker) also bombed off Falmouth was not damaged.

At 1930 when 9 miles N.W. by W. of St. Ives the Norwegian SS HILL, 496 tons, was also attacked by A/C which she engaged and claims to have damaged.

No report of damage has been received in respect of SS MERCHANT PRINCE attacked this morning in Convoy F.N. 12 off the Humber.

/The minesweeper...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.2.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

The Minesweeper BRAMBLE was damaged this morning by a near miss off Harwich, but shot down one of the attacking aircraft which exploded under water.

It is reported that Wolf Rock Light has been put out of action by machine gun fire.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.2.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operation A. The minelaying off Brest was completed without incident last night by 20th D.F. covered by 4 destroyers, with diversionary bombing attack during lay and as long as possible up to 3 hours before the operation commenced.

The Tyne was closed at 1014 this morning after the mining of an LL Trawler off the entrance; precautions owing to mine-laying are necessary in the use of Barry; and at 2209 this evening it was ordered that no Ships are to leave or enter Swansea Bay until further orders. At 1131 the port of Aberdeen was re-opened, though with restrictions as to its approach.

Three Mines were exploded by Sweepers today off Spurn Point, one off Clacton, and one in the Thames Estuary.

SS FORT MEDINE was mined and sunk at 0630 today while at anchor off the Mumbles (Swansea)

LL Trawler MARJORIE MHASTIE was mined off the Tyne a.m. today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.2.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Raider Situation

The raider situation is summarised by the Admiralty in a signal today.

Mediterranean

The Admiralty today promulgated a danger area in the Central Mediterranean with Malta as centre and extending to the Adriatic on the east and including Sardinia on the west.

C. in C., Med. reports today that H.M.Trawler OUSE has been sunk by a mine whilst sweeping in Mersa Tobruk harbour.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

GLIMMAREN.

Your 1632/10. Swedish Ship GLIMMAREN intercepted in Skopen Fiord. Result of examination will be reported.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 1058/20 to Adty.).
Your 1058/20. If examination satisfactory GLIMMAREN is to be routed through the following positions, and thence through British declared channel to Swedish territorial waters.
2. GLIMMAREN should not be allowed to submit to German contraband control during this voyage.
3. Ship is not to be sailed before 1200/21/2.
(D.O.D.H. 2254/20 to N.O.I.C. Faroes).
GLIMMAREN sailing shortly from Skopen Fiord to Gothenburg has been routed through the following positions. Ship should not be molested. (D.O.D.H. 2255/20).

Proposed Rescue-Tug at Leith.

Request consideration may be given to a Rescue Tug being stationed at Leith instead of Dundee. Reasons. (C.in C. Rosyth 1305/20).
Your 1305/20. Concur in proposals. Change should be made on completion of duties outlined in Admiralty 1159/19.
(C.C.R.T. 1712/20 to C.in C. Rosyth).

ANJA

(Finnish, 4836 tons). Have intercepted Ship in 064° 23' N. 029° W. Weather too rough to board. Am escorting her towards Reykjavik. Request rendezvous with escort ship from Reykjavik if available.
(SALOPIAN 1626/20).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

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MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Parachute Stores picked up.	R.N.O. Burnham reports at 1114/19 that the following has been picked up in South Minister Marshes - green canvas bag containing stores with smaller bags of sand total weight 30 pounds. These were attached to a parachute about four feet in diameter which was in turn attached to a smaller parachute these articles are in the hands of the police. (C.in C. Note 0021/20).
DELUGE	At 1130 /20. (D.C. 1159/20). At 2330/20 (D.C. 0024/21).
Orkneys A/A Guns.	Confirmed that these guns have arrived. (A.C.O.S. 1147/20 to Dacoast Four).
Yarmouth A/A Defences.	Following received from F.O.I.C. Yarmouth begins:- Admiralty 1958/19 mentions that Home Forces have been asked to move further light A/A into area. There are no A/A defences of any sort ashore at Yarmouth though there are four Bofors guns at Lowestoft. The difficulty of removing heavy gun defences from other vital areas is appreciated, and was not expected, but it is hoped light A/A may be sent here soon. Trawlers both close inshore and further out have been attacked and bombed off and on all day. 1750/20 ends. (C.in C. Nore 2230/20 to Adty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.2.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

QUEEN ELIZABETH DIDO NAPIER BEDOUIN	Arrived Rosyth DIDO, NAPIER, BEDOUIN. (C.in C. Rosyth 1105/20). Sailed QUEEN ELIZABETH DIDO NAPIER BEDOUIN SOMALI. In accordance with my 1600/19. (C.in C. Rosyth 1529/20). My 1600/19. Amend E.T.A. to read fifty minutes later. (C.in C. Rosyth 1825/20 to A.C.O.S.).
Northern Patrol.	Trawler lines tonight. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1526/30).
S/M's.	Positions at 0800/21 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1721/20).
PEGASUS.	PEGASUS is to be sailed in time to act in co-operation with convoy O.B.291. She is to return to Clyde with convoy S.L.65. Object is destruction of enemy A/C. Instructions. (C.in C. W.A. 1815/20).
EDINBURGH.	Scapa departure 1900. (A.C.O.S. 1923/20).
PANDORA.	Intend sailing PANDORA at 1830/21 as by my 1215/18 with 72 hours added to all times. (S.O. 2315/20).

Operations.

Channel Patrol.	WIVERN BERKELEY leave Needles 1845/20 to patrol southward of a group of 12 Merchant Vessels escorted by MAID MARION and VICTRIX due Dartmouth 0800/21. Destroyers return to Needles at 0745/21. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1303/20.).
More Patrols.	Owing to weather conditions all patrols sheltering in harbour. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1730/20).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Following patrols will be flown today. Pair, Minches. (C.in C. Rosyth 0830/20).

Air search by Hudson A/C being carried out over position 59° 40' N. 7° 28' W. until dusk. (C.in C. Rosyth 1626/20).

Yarmouth and Lowestoft Mobile Balloons requested. In view of present enemy aircraft activity round Yarmouth and Lowestoft, request the use of 8 to 12 Mobile Balloons may be loaned from Felixstowe for use at Yarmouth and Lowestoft. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1802/20 to C.in C. Nore.).

Enemy Air Activity.

HOUSATONIC (Bombed 19/2). Will proceed at 0700 arriving given position appror. (1600) ? today. (SALVONIA 0230/20).
My 1500/19. Proceeding Oban with 80 survivors, one critical cot case. E.T.A. 1200/20. (PERIWINKLE 0300/20).
Your 1906/19. Lost touch with HOUSATONIC in snow storm. In view of absence of orders and urgent need of medical attention have proceeded for Oban. (PERIWINKLE 0430/20 to C.in C. W.A.).
Your 0730/20. PERIWINKLE arrived with survivors. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1245/20 to C.in C. W.A.).
Your 1530/20. PERIWINKLE has returned to harbour. HOUSATONIC reported still afloat in 59° 39' N. 07° 24' W. at 2029/19. Aircraft will assist you in search tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2125/20 to SALVONIA).

Plymouth attacked. Situation report 1800/19 to 0600/20. Part 1. Between 50 and 75 hostile aircraft passed over area on northerly course from 1911 for about 2 hours in waves of between 6 and 12 aircraft at a time. One U.X.B. on Admiralty property. Damage and casualties on Adty. property subject to separate report to Adty. (Group Controller, Plymouth 0600/20).

/ Air raid during ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Plymouth attacked. (Contd.) Air raid during evening of 19/2 caused damage at R.N. Hospital Plymouth as follows. There are still two U.X. B. in the hospital grounds. (S.C.E. Devonport 1800/20).

MERCHANT PRINCE. (British, 5229 tons). Attacked by bomber 1 mile off Humber Light Vessel. (Rosyth W/T 1035/20).

Falmouth bombed. Two H.E.'s dropped in Dockyard last night. Extensive damage to plate fitting shop. Other damage to road and railways and roof of fitting shop. No casualties. No damage to ships. Hope machines will be 50% working in a week 100% in a fortnight. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1057/20).

Convoy F.S.16. Enemy bombing Convoy ARENA. My position 51° 56' N. 1° 40' E. (WALLACE 1102/20). My 1103. No hits. (FYTCHLEY 1105/20). My 1120. Two bombs no hits. Bombs failed to explode. (FYTCHLEY 1125/20).

Convoy O.B. 287. Enemy bombing convoy CURLY in 59° N. 12° W. (? Origin) (1130/20).

TARIA. Arrived SABRE escorting TARIA with 3 dead and 4 injured. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1507/20). Your 1311/19. Ship arrived. Casualties 3 killed 3 injured. (C.T.O. 1547/20 to S.N.O. Curacao).

BRAMBLE (1st M/S F.) SEAGULL reports that BRAMBLE shot down a Messerschmitt and also that she has an U.X.B. on board. Both ships now in harbour. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1525/20).
BRAMBLE now berthed alongside Parkeston Quay. Bomb has been removed and disposed of. Ship holed port side aft on water line. Ship can steam but will require docking after passage repairs completed. No casualties.

/ Two German twin ...

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

BRAMBLE (1st. M/S.F.) (contd.)	Two German twin engined aircraft attacked ship simultaneously at deck level with machine guns dropping two bombs, one in sea, the other on board unexploded. One aircraft shot down into sea exploding under water. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1929/20).
WINDSOR CASTLE.	(British, 19,141 tons). Attacked one mile South of Black Head. (WINDSOR CASTLE 1809/20).
BRITISH SPLENDOUR.	(British Tanker, 7138 tons) Attacked 1 mile South Black Head. (BRITISH SPLENDOUR 1820/20).
Swansea bombed.	Air Raid Swansea night 19/20. Damage to docks slight.
QUEEN IV sunk.	Tug QUEEN IV sunk. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1900/20).
BARON RENFREW (Bombed 20/1).	Salvage Company anticipate BARON RENFREW ready for towing Saturday. (SCHELDE 2118/18).
RIGMOR.	(British 1278 tons). CLARE reports S.S. RIGMOR bombed in 049° 54' N. 004° 51' W. at 1930/20. Burning and sinking rapidly. All crew picked up proceeding Milford Haven. (C.in C. Plymouth 2256/20).

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

MARJORIE A. EASTIE.	(L.L. Trawler). Mined off Tyne. Drifting to south of entrance. Examination vessel and lifeboat standing by. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0947/20).
Tyne.	Part of Tyne is closed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1014/20).
Z.M.E.19.	Particulars. To be carried out on night of 21/2 or as soon after as practicable. (V.C.N.S. 1018/20).
Search of War Channel.	My 1600/19. Subject to weather, Oropesa searches between May Island and Duncansby Head between One and Two miles east of following Dividing Line will be completed by 1800 today. (C.in C. Rosyth 1025/20).
Barry.	Restrictions and precautions. Owing to suspected mine laying. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1043/20).
FORTMEDINE.	(British, 5261 tons) Mined and sunk in 51° 35.5 N. 3° 56.5 W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1047/20).
Off Clacton.	Mine exploded by 'L L' Trawler at 1505/19 in about 51° 39' 30" N. 01° 15' 24" E. Mother vessels in vicinity. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1118/20).
Aberdeen.	Port open using North side of Q.Z.S. 161. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1131/20).
Operation A.	My 1344/18. Operation completed according to plan and without incident. (C.in C. Plymouth 1856/20). Arrived 1003: KELLY, KASHMIR, KIPLING, JACKAL, INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, ICARUS. (C.in C. Plymouth 1520

/ INTREPID
IMPULSIVE
ICARUS ....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

INTREPID IMPULSIVE ICARUS	91. Intend sailing for Portsmouth at 1900 today to arrive off Nab at 0800/21. (11) Request INTREPID and IMPULSIVE may be sailed to Dartmouth by night after reloading. (C.in C. Plymouth 1302/20 to C.in C. Portsmouth).
S.N.68 B.	Your 1726/18. Cover and escort for this operation will probably not be available before 4/3. (C.in C. H.F. 1457/20 to R.A.M.L.).
Thames Estuary.	Red mine detonated at 2035/19 225° B.4 Buoy 2.1 miles. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1500/20 and 1924/20).
PELICAN (mined 19/2).	My 1130/20. Request tugs may be at Sheerness by 1200 tomorrow to tow PELICAN. (C.in C. Nore 1730/20).
Spurn Point.	The following three mines were exploded today. Particulars. (F.O. Humber 1822/20).
	Admiralty 1708/20 para. 2 (a) concur. Request you will comply with para. 2 (b). (C.in C. H.F. 1859/20 to R.A.M.L.).
	Admiralty's 1708/20. BRIGHTON and LANCASTER will be available at midnight 20/21 February. Request your requirements. (R.A.M.L. 1939/20 to C.in C. W.A.).
Swansea Bay.	Owing to minelaying no ships are to enter or leave Swansea Bay until further orders. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2209/20).

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

OCEANA — Following intercept on 500 Kc/s.:
58° 30' N. 21° 20' E. LIEGEN STILL
("Lying still") OCEANA.
(Scapa W/T. T.O.R. 0644/20).

New Type U-Boat. Kiel Canal. — 1. There have been four unconnected reports from seamen during last two months of a small type of U boat apparently twenty metres in length, no guns, crew of seven reported from Pillau, Kiel, Danzig, and now Rotterdam.
3. My 1848/19 for "obstruction" read "ice".
Note paragraph 1 D 2. Paragraph 2, A2.
(N.A. Stockholm 1555/20).

MARIE LEONHARDT. — (German, 2594 tons). Has message been received time of receipt 1855 made in German from MARIE LONHARDT on 500 kc/s. Ship transmitting appears to be close. My position 1900/20 was 055° 52' N. 008° 08' W.
(HARVESTER 1930/20 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

O.G.M.) Alternative routes. My 1937/24/1 cancelled.
O.B.M.) My 1737/18/1 remains in force.
C.in C. Plymouth, 1034/20).

Stragglers. My 2137/21/1 and your 1123/14 also report on Convoy SC 20 by RANPURA. Suggest reintroduction of D/F straggler procedure up to 035° West be seriously considered. (R.A. 3rd B.S. 1217/20.).

ORDUNA With Willingdon Mission. 2 destroyers from R.A.M.L. to meet. (D.O.D.Z., 1708/20). BRIGHTON and LANCASTER available (R.A.M.L. 1939/20). Route. (C.in C. W.A. 2327/20).

O.B. and O.G. My 1739/10. Order of sailing of escort groups amended. (C.in C. W.A. 1914/20). Amended programme of sailings. (C.in C. W.A., 2247/20).

Finnish Ships. Consul Petsamo reports practice of British patrols in removing Navicerts from eastbound ships (special mention being made of vessels FRITZ and CAROLINE THORDEN) is causing difficulty in checking cargoes on their arrival. (N.A. Stockholm 1541/20 to Admty.).

Coastal Convoys.

E.N.74. My 1552/19. Amend position (C.in C. Rosyth 0006/20) Position (A.C.O.S. 0849/20).

E.N.U.73. 0100/20, unescorted, 2 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 0224/20).

W.N.U.75. Destinations (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 0225/20).

F.N.12. E.T.A. (VALOROUS, 0742/20) List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1059/20) Tyne and Tees ships to be sent Hartlepool. (C.in C. Rosyth 1153/20). Absentees. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 2216/20).

F.S.17. No ships from Middlesbrough (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0947/20) 15 ships (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0948/20) 3 ships (list) (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1102/20).

W.N.86. Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 1016/20).

/ F.S. 16. ....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.).

F.S.16. Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1018/20) Position, 5 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1414/20) Arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames 1918/20).

W.N.U.73. Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1120/20).

E.N.75. 0630/21. Escorts. 14 ships. Codes. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1136/20).

12 M.V's. E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1223/20) (C.in C., Portsmouth, 1437/20).

W.N.U.87. 1430/20 unescorted, 3 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1224/20).
1500/20 unescorted, 3 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1550/20) List (1600/20).

W.N.87. 1 ship Methil for Leith. (N.C.S.O. Lyness, 1435/20) Position (ULLSWATER, 1820/20).

W.N.88. Cancel my 1457/19 (sailing orders). (F.O.I.C. Clyde 1614/20) List (1718/20).

E.N.75. Sails 0630/21 }
F.S.17A. Sails 2300/20 } (C.in C. Rosyth 1558/20).
F.N.12. Due 1830/20 }

F.S.17A.)
F.S.18) Amend my 1745/17 (escorts).
F.S.26) (C.in C. Rosyth 1823/20).

C.E.26. Sailing 23/2. (C.in C. Nore 1740/20).

C.W.26. All arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1746/20).

/ F.E. 11. ....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.11.	Arrived 1800/20. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1826/20) (C.in C. Rosyth 2355/20).
O.B.U.289.	1030/22 unescorted, 6 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1840/20).
O.B.U.288.	List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1911/20).
10 M.V's.	Sailing 1630/21. Escorts. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 2143/20).
F.S.17A.	Sailed 2300/20. 31 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2355/20) (C.in C. Rosyth 2355/20).

Ocean Convoys.

4 Corvettes required for convoy escorts.	Adty. 2348/10 and my 2024/19. Following corvettes detailed. GENTIAN sailed with O.O.52. CORBOPSIS sailing with O.O.54. FLEUR DE LYS AZALEA sailing with O.O.55. (ii) Allocation of PIMPERNEL is cancelled. (iii) F.O.C.N.A. is requested sail VERBENA for U.K. with next E.C. convoy after arrival of AZALEA. (C.in C. W.A. 1732/20).
Arrivals for Convoys.	N.C.S.O. Halifax 2210/20.
S.C.21.	1 arrival. (N.O.I.C. Barry 0116/20).
H.X.108.	Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 0209/20 to WANDERER, WITCH, etc.). 12 hours late. (MALOJA, 1028/20) WANDERER etc. to join (C.in C. W.A., 2231/20) PERIWINKLE to meet. (C.in C. W.A. 2311/20).

/ O.B.287. ....

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.287. Report p.c. and s. (C.in C. W.A., 1011/20 to WANDERER) Remain with O.B.287 till further orders. (C.in C. W.A. 1357/20 to WANDERER etc.) Remain as long as fuel endurance and join H.X.108, 22/2 (C.in C. W.A., 2231/20).

O.C.53. Sailing telegram (C.in C. W.A., 1457/20).

O.B.289. Sailed 1715/20, 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1716/20) List and destinations. (1717/20).

O.C.52. GENTIAN sailed with. (C.in C. W.A. 1732/20).

O.C.54. COREOPSIS " " " "

O.C.55. FLEUR DE LYS, AZALEA sailing with (C.in C. W.A. 1732/20).

O.B.291. PEGASUS to co-operate. Instructions. (C.in C. W.A., 1815/20).

H.X.U.107. BOULDERPOOL arrived (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1909/20).

Military Convoys.

W.S.6B. A.T. 1338/11 (See Operations Volume). Delete S.S. BURMA from para. 3. Para. 6, MAURITIUS is carrying out this duty and will accompany convoy W.S.6B. (D.O.D.(F) 1619/20 to C.in C. W.A., H.F., S.A., etc.).

T.C.9. B.S.3 1652/16. A/S escort for T.C.9 from position A. OTTAWA. S.O., RESTIGOUCHE, ASSINIBOINE, HAVELOCK, CHURCHILL, LEOPARD. (C.in C. W.A. 1668/20 to 18 C.S.).

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

AFON GWILI. (British, 874 tons) Reports having been in collision with unknown ship. Making water amidships but is maintaining course and speed of Convoy. I am standing by her. (PITCHLEY 0430/20).

M.A/S B.73. My 0931/20. M.A/S B.73 has returned to Douglas with engine failure. (N.O.I.C. Isel of Man 1148/20).

LINGFIELD. (British, 1002 tons). From F.N.11. Holed in stokehold, rudder post believed fractured, now being beached Yarmouth for pumping operations and subsequent entry to harbour. (N.C.S.O. Yarmouth 1155/20).

Arrived with tugs KROOMAN and RICHARD LEE BARRIER at 1810. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1845/20).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raider Situation.

North Atlantic.

1. SLS. 64 was probably attacked by HIPPER which has returned to Brest.

2. Suspicious ship sighted by U.S. liner EXETER on 16/2 south of Azores and vague D/F indications on 18/2 suggest unit in this area.

3. D/F indications of unit in Pernambuco-Freetown area on 19/2.

South Atlantic. D/F shows unit still south of St. Helena on 19/2.

Southern Ocean. No information.

Indian Ocean. SPEYBANK and KETTY PROVI[illegible]G overdue and probably attacked 31/1 and 2/2 west of Seychelles respectively. D/F in this area on 4/2 probably same raider. D/F on 15/2 indicated raider had moved to Saya de Malha-Chagos area.

Pacific Ocean. Suspicious ship and tanker sighted by R.A.A.F on 16/2 between New Guinea and Solomons, course south, not located 17/2. Possibly MANYO MARU, which bombarded Nauru on 26/12/40 and prize OLE JACOB ex Kobe 5/12/40. (D.D.I.C. 2302/20 to C. in C's etc).

Operations Against Vichy French.

FORT RICHEPANSE
PLM 13.
LORIENT.
(intercepted 18/2).

My 1230/18. Position 0001/20 033° 24N 013° 13'W. Route 035° 00'N. 010° 00'W. Speed 11 knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1500/21. Fuel remaining 290 tons.
(REGISTAN 0001/20 to Admty).
MARSDALE's 1100/19. Unless otherwise ordered MARSDALE rendezvous with FORT RICHEPANSE and escort Gibraltar REGISTAN on relief by MARSDALE (? to join) patrol.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0020/20 to MARSDALE, REGISTAN).
Your 1100/19. French ship PLM 13 sent out S.O.S. 1745 G.M.T./18 which was answered by Casablanca asking reason for call. Nothing further heard.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1042/20 to MARSDALE).

/Rendezvous.....

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

FORT RICHEPANSE.
PLM 13.
LORIENT.
(intercepted 18/2).

Rendezvous with me 033° 38'N. 011° 20'W. 1700 today.
(MARSDALE 1200/20 to REGISTAN).
F.O.C.N.A's 0020/20. FORT RICHEPANSE reports only two days supply of water and stores. Sick child on board. Escorting him direct to Gibraltar. E.T.A. 1600/21.
(REGISTAN, 1310/20 to Admty).
Your 1200/20. Unable to rendezvous. See my 1310/20.
(REGISTAN 1500/20 to MARSDALE).
Your 1310/20 not received. My position 1800, 033° 43'N. 011° 12'W. steering 110° 8 knots.
(MARSDALE, 1730/20 to REGISTAN, F.O.C.N.A).

Suspicious Cruiser.

Unknown cruiser bearing 300 distance 14 miles course 200 going away fast, 033° 07' N. 011° 28' W. my course and speed 010° 10 knots, from MARSDALE.
(Block 1, 1515/20 to Admty F.O.C.N.A).
Your 1515/20. Probably H.M.S. PHOEBE, Vide my 1706/19.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1605/20 to MARSDALE Block 1, to Adty, F.O.C.N.A).

North Atlantic.

KALLIOPI.
(ex S.L.S. 64).

Greek, 4965 tons has arrived Gibraltar with slight damage from raider attack on S.L. S. 64 on 12/2. Result of the attack is now:- Safe, 10 ships certain, 2 probably; Sunk, 5 ships certain, 2 probably. (D.O.R. 20/2).

MARON suspected ship.

Your 2100/19. (MARON reporting following CAMPOS). Brazilian CAMPOS ex ASUNCION 4663 G.T. belonging to Lloyds Brazilgire line.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0120/20 to MARON).
Your 2100/19 Lloyds report CAMPOS 4663 tons arrived Paranagua 7/2 from Bahia Blanca. No later information.
(D.C. 0212/20 to MARON-.
My 0120/20. In all probability SIQUEIRA CAMPOS, 6456 Gross, which left Pernambuco 6/2 for Lisbon.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1212/20 to MARON).

/Suspicious.....

MOST SECRET.

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Thureday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Suspicious Ship, 16/2.	American S.S. EXETER on arrival Lisbon reports closed by suspicious ship south of Azores a.m./16 which then made off. (Description). (F.O.C.N.A. 0843/20 to N.A. Stn).
Force H. Escort.	Intend to sail FORESIGHT S.O. of Destroyers, FOXHOUND, FORTUNE, FIREDRAKE, to pass through 035° 10'N. 011° 20'W. at 0900 minus one February 23 (?steering 260°) to R/V with you and escort you to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1304/20 to S.O. Force H).
H.G. 54. Escort.	Gibraltar departures 1500/20 LEITH (?TUNA) FURY, FEARLESS, GERANIUM, JONQUIL, escorting H.G. 54 in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 2334/17 amended 1312/19. (S.O.I. Gib., 1546/20).
Air Operations	20/2. 2 Routine A.S. patrols. One convoy escort from west. One convoy escort to East. Area covered 4° 30'W. to 8° 40'W. (200 Group 1700/20 to Air Ministry).
ASAKA MARU.	Japanese transport arrival a.m. today. (N.A. Lisbon 1704/20 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

Enemy Unit.	D/F bearings at 1917Z/19 indicate enemy surface unit within 100 miles of 011°N. 018°W. (C. in C. S.A. 0011/20 to CORMORIN, WISHART).
Minesweeping Whalers for Mediterranean.	Your 2021/18. Propose to take in hand forthwith for conversion at Durban NOBLE NORA TRANSVALIA EGELAND JOHN WILLIAMSON. Earliest possible date of completion 3/5. FAIR MAGDA SILESIA and ODD are in bad condition. Possibility of reconditioning. SIR LIEGE ETOILE and EDDA cannot be made serviceable. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1130/20 to Admty).

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Enemy Unit.

D/F bearings indicated enemy unit probably surface within 80 miles of 031° S. 004° W. at 1917Z/19. Reliability 85%.
(C. in C. S.A. 1347N/20 to S.A. Station).

WANDERER.

Overdue shipping cancel my 1034/14 (1035/14 intended) WANDERER arrived Walvis Bay.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1527B/20).

CYCLAMAN.
CUBA.

H.M.S. CYCLAMEN and transport CUBA arrived Lagos 1100/20. Maximum speed is 9½ knots.
(Director of Nigerian Marine Lagos 1530/20 to C. in C. S.A).

DOMINION MONARCH.

Due Capetown 22/2 probable date of sailing 23rd for U.K. independently.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1601B/20).

S/M Report.

Brazilian Naval Authorities have had report (C.5) from Civilian prefect that unknown submarine was 2 km. off shore at Saquirema, 22° 56' S. 42° 26'W. at 1630/18.
(N.A., Rio de Janeiro 1801/20).

CHATEAUROUX.
BENVENUE.

Your 1404/13. CHATEAUROUX loaded by Free French with French owned cargo and before disposal their approval must be obtained in London. Report when BENVENUE (British) will be ready for sea and cause of delay. If delay due to faulty degaussing she should be sailed for Glasgow undegaussed.
(D.T.D. 1929/20 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Parachute Mines	Your 1845/18. A.L. T.O. 7279/40 of 14th/9 1940 paras 45-53 and Diagram 4 explain action and appearance of parachute mine. As far as is known German aircraft do not lay any mine without a parachute. (D.M.S., 0027/20 to S.B.N.O., Suez Canal)
CHRISTIAN HUYGENS	C,in C., E.I. 1136Z/16. Draft in CHRISTIAN HUYGENS is composed of men three to four years abroad and selected for some reason or another to go to U.K. I strongly deprecate the use of these men as suggested. (C. in C., Med. 0846/20 to Admty.)
Destroyers' Guns	Further to A.M. 1417/17/1, and C. in C. Med's 1405/20/1 Arrangements for N Class destroyers to be fitted with 4" gun in place of after torpedo tubes. (D.T.S.D. 1056/20 to C. in C., Med.)
Minesweeping	Your 1845/11. Owing to amount of material involved, length of time elapsing before gear could operate, and doubtful efficacy through changes made in enemy mines, the fixed loop system cannot be produced without detriment to production of minesweepers. (D.T.M. 1057/20 to C. in C., Med.)
Sfax Tunisia	Information received Italians very rarely use Sfax Roads. (Cdr. (S) 1, 1129/20 to UPRIGHT)
UPHOLDER	Leave area p.m./21 through 033° 00' 012° 10' 033° 50' 011° 58' 035° 32' 014° 12' Make E.T.A. when safe to do so and if you cannot arrive Marsamxett before 2200/23 remain in sanctuary and proceed so as to arrive 0630/24. (Comdr (S) 1 1143/20 to UPHOLDER)

/Aircraft....

MOST SECRET

20.2.1941.
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Aircraft required at Malta	Request you instruct 200 Group to comply with my A 169 11/2. Glenn Martin urgently required at Malta. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1538/20 to Air Min.)
Taranto Reconnaissance	Air reconnaissance 20/2. Taranto. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1715/20 V.A. Malta 1811/20)
Air Squadrons	My 1732/14/1. Request details regarding 885 and 805 Squadrons. (D.N.A.D., 1853/20 to C. in C., Med.)
Air Forces	Reply to C. in C., Med. 2007/30/1. (D.N.A.D., 1854/20) See Mediterranean Volume
Engaging Unseen Air Targets	Following sent to A.O.C., in C., M.E. by Air Ministry "Experience of enemy night T/B and low level bombing attacks in Mediterranean and possibility of similar attacks elsewhere necessitates establishment of rules for engaging unseen targets by H.M. ships. Following rule proposed"(quoted) Request information if this rule will meet your general requirements for A.A. fire at unseen targets. (D.T.S.D., 1855/20 to C. in C., Med.)
Danger Area for Shipping	In Central Mediterranean. Navigational warning to be issued at 1200/22 to shipping. Instructions for attack on shipping at sight. (Hd. of M., 2021/20 to C. in C., Med., etc.) Original in Lion copy only.
OUSE	OUSE was sunk by a mine while sweeping with S.A. gear in Mersa Tobruk Harbour. Further details and casualties will be forwarded later. (C. in C., Med., 1906/20)

War Diary

20.2.1941.
Thuredny

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Kismayu — My 1026/17. (Position of ships ex Kismayu) One of the three ships in Southern Anchorage Kismayu is still afloat W/T Station apparatus and electric power station in Kismayu completely smashed. (C. in C., E.I., 0528Z/20, to Admty.)

KINGSTON
FORT LAMY
PASHA
ARENA — Expect to arrive 1600Z/20 with FORT LAMY Will send PASHA ahead to save daylight. ARENA sent on last night has not yet been overtaken and may arrive independently. Re lights. (KINGSTON, 0606Z/20 to N.O.I.C. Port Sudan)

Red Sea Convoys — My 1226/21/1 and 1316/18/1. Consequent on reduction in Red Sea Escort Force intend to introduce following Red Sea convoy programme forthwith. (C. in C., E.I., 0700Z/20 to S.N.O., Red Sea etc.) See Operations Volume.

PARRAMATTA
B.S.F. 2. — Departure 0400Z/20 to join B.S.F. 2. (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan 0922Z/20) Sailing telegram B.S.F. 2 (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan 0924Z/20)

Convoy B.N.F. 2. — Port Sudan portion arrived 20/2 EMPIRE ABILITY, BAARN. (N.O.i/c Port Sudan 0923Z/20)

Convoy B.N. 16 — Port Sudan portion arrived, ARENA, FORT LAMY. (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan 1737Z/20)

Convoy W.S.5 B — List. (S.T.O., Durban, 1905B/20, to D. of S.T.)

Merchant Ship Lights — My 1854/17/1 and your 0658/3 para 3, request information as to navigation lights being exhibited by merchant vessels in your command. (D.T.D., 1931/20 to C. in C., E.I.)

/Troop.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.1.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Troop Transport

Your 0632/6. Suggestion appreciated but owing to changed circumstances first employment of whatever vessel is released will be voyage from Durban to Egypt with W.S. 6.
INDRAPOERA will not be withdrawn to U.K. until this voyage has been completed unless you can release her concurrently Presume NEURALIA will be ordered to proceed to India.
(D.S.T., 2342/20 to P.S.T.O. Bombay)
Your 1633/13. Personnel Ships of W.S. 5 A. may be required at Durban for onward conveyance of personnel ex refrigerated ships in W.S. 6. Disposal of W.S. 5 B. ships will be signalled.
(D.S.T., 2351/20 to P.S.T.O. Egypt)

China

Conference

At Singapore. Request for information re distribution. (C. in C., China, 0209Z/20 to Admty.)

VARDAAS

Request permission Norwegian tanker VARDAAS now at Tarakan discharge Shanghai cargo at Singapore. (S.O.I., Singapore 0255Z/20)

D'ARTAGNAN

Your 1246/19. Fully concur in action taken by British Embassy Shanghai. Risk of immobilising of these ships at Shanghai under present conditions cannot be accepted. (C. in C., China 0309Z/20 to Admty.)

Aviation Spirit at Hong Kong

Arrangements being made for A.P.C. to hold reserve of 500 tons aviation spirit DTD 224 in drums on Hong Hong Kong Island for use by M.T.B's. (Admty., 1614/20)

Hong Kong

Precautions (Hd. of M., 1751/20 to C. in C., China)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.1.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Troop Transport

Your 0632/8. Suggestion appreciated but owing to changed circumstances first employment of whatever vessel is released will be voyage from Durban to Egypt with W.S. 6.
INDRAPOERA will not be withdrawn to U.K. until this voyage has been completed unless you can release her concurrently Presume NEURALIA will be ordered to proceed to India.
(D.S.T., 2342/20 to P.S.T.O. Bombay)
Your 1633/13. Personnel Ships of W.S. 5 A. may be required at Durban for onward conveyance of personnel ex refrigerated ships in W.S. 6. Disposal of W.S. 5 A. ships will be signalled.
(D.S.T., 2351/20 to P.S.T.O. Egypt)

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At Singapore. Request for information re distribution. (C. in C., China, 0209Z/20 to Admty.)

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Hong Kong

Precautions (Hd. of M., 1751/20 to C. in C., China)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.2.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Contraband Gold

Intercepted air letter from Banque De L'Afrique Occidentale Marseilles to M. Morin representative of Banque De L'Indo-Chine care of French American Banking Corporation New York states that best way of forwarding the gold would be by air to Algiers and Casablanca thence by sea and air to New York via Guadeloupe. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0953/20 to Admty.)

TOEI MARU Hurriedly loading petrol

Following from C.S.A. San Francisco (Begins) - Japanese Tanker TOEI MARU arriving San Francisco late this week to load aviation base petrol. Petrol so urgently required that it is being loaded in dirty tanker normally carrying Bladd oil which is unprecedented. Known fact. (Ends) (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1517/20 to Capt. O.S.Singapore)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.2.1941.
Thursday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DERNA — Departed 18/2 for Genoa. (Barcelona 1237/19)

METEOR — Italian tanker, 1700 tons reported left Cagliari for Tripoli yesterday. Ship believed loaded with aviation spirit. (V.A.Malta 1435/20 to REGENT, URSULA)

PASUBIO — Arrived Susak 19/2 from Trapani, Sicily. (Susak, T.H.I. 1930/19)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

SAINT DOMINGUE — My 1801/19. Cancel words "endeavoring to detain". Reliable French source regraded A. 1. informs this ship's mission solely to carry food to Cayenne by arrangement with Port Para Company which is Government controlled. She expects to sail 21/2. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1235/20 to Admty.)

CHATEAUROUX — (D.T.D., 1939/20) See South Atlantic.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.2.1941.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BLACK OSPREY
(Torpedoed 18/2)

No trace of vessel found except much wreckage. Search has been abandoned. (D.O.R., 20/2)
Your 1900/18 if nothing found proceed to Reykjavik to fuel. Report anticipated time you will be ready to leave Reykjavik. (C. in C., W.A., 1258/20 to MISTRAL)

SIAMESE PRINCE
(Torpedoed 17/2)

Your 1349/20. From ARROW. Your 1035/19 searched till dark nothing but wreckage seen. Met 4 ships of H.X. 107 intend to rejoin them off Butt of Lewis about noon, tomorrow. (C. in C., W.A., 2010/20 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported

South Atlantic

1630/18

22.56 S., 42.26 W. (N.A. Rio, 1801/20) See FOREIGN STATIONS, South Atlantic)

Off Azores
16/2.

Report graded A. states Submarine sighted South Terceira Island Azores on 16/2. (F.O.C.N.A., 0446/20 to North Atlantic Station)

D/F Position
19/2

My 2302/19 for 2040/19 read 2140/19. (D.D.I.C., 0357/20)

0930

Following has been read from Lyness W/T. SSSS S/M Raider signal heard at 0930 G.M.T. SSSS 59 R 53 N., /2R13 west (SHAFTESBURY 1220/20)

Estimated
Dispositions

German: 1 60 miles of 60° 30' N., 16° W
1 in 58° 48' N., 18° 17' W., at 2041/18 may be moving West.
1 90 miles of 56° 30' N., 22° 30' W.
1 90 miles of 53° 30' N., 18° W.,
1 30 miles of 51° 30' N., 20° W.,
1 approaching Lorient
1 60 miles of 43° 30' N., 13° W., homeward bound.
Italian: Possibly one in Azores area re-reported South of Terceira 16th.
6 or 7 may be at sea. (D.D.I.C., 1243/20, F.O.(S) 1438/20 to SURCOUF, THUNDERBOLT)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Shipping in Channel.

In order to reduce danger of air attacks C.in C. Plymouth has issued to Officers concerned, in his command, routing orders which will reduce shipping at sea in the Channel to a minimum during daylight.

British Air Activity.

A Hudson of Coastal Command attacked a merchant vessel of about 4000 tons off Egersund today and secured two direct hits.

Most of the morning patrols in the North Sea were cancelled today, but the weather improved in the afternoon and enabled the patrols to be carried out. Convoys were escorted in the N.W. Approaches and Blenheims maintained a fighter patrol all day in the North Channel and Minches.

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy air attacks are being carried out in bad weather on ships and ports on the East Coast with comparative immunity owing to the inability of our aircraft to take off to counter them. C.in C. Rosyth urges that the enemy bases on the Coast of Norway should be bombed. A Blenheim is to patrol over Stavanger Aerodrome nightly from 23/2 in order to endeavour to keep F.W.A/C from taking off during dark hours.

/Convoy

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

SITUATIONS REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy O.B.287 was attacked this morning for the third day in succession in the N.W.Approaches in 59° 31'N., 16° 30'W., S.S. SCOTTISH STANDARD, ST. ROSARIO and B.L. HARPER are reported to have been damaged in the attacks today and yesterday. All attacks were made on the flanks or stragglers by single aircraft appearing suddenly from clouds or snowstorms. The escort was quite unable to cover the entire convoy and WANDERER reports that continual escort (air) during daylight is essential if similar cases are to be avoided. It had been suggested that A.S.V. transmissions might assist enemy aircraft to find convoy, and these were stopped after the dawn attacks this morning with subsequent immunity.

Some damage was caused by attack on Chatham dockyard lastnight.

Two aircraft attacked oiler WAR PINDARI, tanker THORSHAVEN, and A/S Trawler LINCOLN CITY in Skaale Fiord, Faroes today. The A/S trawler was sunk, but the other two ships escaped damage. One enemy aircraft was brought down by combined machine gun fire of S.S. LEICESTER CITY and the military. A/A guns are being sent for defence.

It is reported that S.S. HILL yesterday evening damaged an enemy aircraft which attacked her off St. Ives.

8

Mining.

Minelaying enemy aircraft early this morning was suspected off the Lizard, Lands End, and in the Thames Estuary.

/mines

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Contd.)

Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary and off the Mumbles (Swansea).

The Tees was opened at 1600. Tyne remains closed until a sweeper fitted with S.A.gear is available.

Operations Against Vichy French.

S.S. FORT RICHEPANSE arrived at Gibraltar this afternoon, escorted by REGISTAN, ~~also~~ who has defects which will require 7 days to make good. S.S. RICHEPANSE and her cargo are to be seized in prize. Aircraft patrolled off Casablanca to prevent interception of incoming RICHEPANSE.

South Atlantic.

A German drifting mine in absolutely new condition has been destroyed 11½ miles S.S.W. of Dassen Island in the north part of Table Bay. A prohibited area has been established. A vessel was recently reported near the position.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

6 Wellingtons attacked aerodromes in Sicily last night. 8 Bombs were dropped on Benghazi after dusk today.

Operation M.C.8.

V.A. Malta reports that operation M.C.8. (passage of troops and stores to Malta) was successfully completed at Malta (see 19/2).

Force B (Cruisers and Destroyers) after disembarking troops this morning sailed this afternoon according to plan for Alexandria. Large numbers of German aircraft operated round Malta about 1130 but no attacks developed on Force B.

East Indies.

German Battle Cruiser attacks S.S. CANADIAN CRUISER.

S.S. CANADIAN CRUISER reported at 1608Z today being chased by a battle cruiser in 6° 36'S., 47° 18'E, approx., midway between Zanzibar and Seychelles, though CANADIAN CRUISER may have reported her longitude incorrectly.
GLASGOW, EMERALD, CAPETOWN and HERMES are to form Force V to search for the raider. GLASGOW, which was in the neighbourhood of the raider went to investigate immediately. EMERALD is escorting Convoy W.S.5.B.X, which has been ordered into Mombasa. Convoy W.S. 5.B, escorted by HAWKINS and AUSTRALIA is about 50 miles to the Eastward of W.S.5.B.X. proceeding towards Aden. ENTERPRISE, 300 miles to the northward is proceeding towards the area at 20 knots.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Naval Aircraft attack on Massawa.

7 Albacores from FORMIDABLE (Force K) carried out a dawn attack on Massawa today. It is hoped that 3 destroyers and possibly a submarine were hit. Over 35 merchant ships were counted in the harbour.

R.A.F. operated against targets in the neighbourhood today.

America and West Indies.

It is reported that the Chilean authorities have given orders to prevent the German ships refuging in Chilean ports from sailing.

The Admiralty today replied to C.in C. A.W.I. 1301/4, outlining their proposals for protection of New Zealand Air Force personnel between Auckland and Vancouver.

MOST SECRET.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Enemy Air Bases. Proposal to Attack.

Enemy air attacks are being carried out in bad weather on ships and ports on this coast with comparative impunity owing to the inability of our aircraft to take off to counter them. It is undesirable that these attacks should be allowed to continue.

I would suggest again as in my 1749/12/11 that heavy scale bombing should be carried out on enemy bases on the Norwegian coast.

It is realised that 18 Group of Coastal Command have neither suitable or sufficient aircraft for such bombing and it is for consideration that these attacks should be carried out by fornes of the Bomber Command. (C.in C. Rosyth 1100/21).

GLIMMAREN.

Swedish ship GLIMMAREN sailed for Goteborg at 1400 routed in accordance with your 2255/20. Master instructed not to submit to German Contraband control during this voyage. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1402/21 to Admty).

Administration of Western Patrol.

A.T.1011/11/1, para.E cancel and substitute:

E. That the Western Patrol should be carried out by ten O.B.V's who will be administered by F.O.C.N.P. and based normally on the Clyde.

Operational control will be as follows:-

By F.O.C.N.P. Whilst outside the North Atlantic Station whether on passage or on patrol. F.O.C.N.P. in consultation with the Admiralty is to decide which areas are to be patrolled and the dates of commencing and leaving patrol.

By F.O.C.N.A. Whilst within the North Atlantic Station.
(A.C.N.S. T. 1823/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Faroes. — N.O.I.C. Faroes 1715/21. I wish to keep an oiler in Faroes but it will not be practicable if attacks continue. Can reply be given to my 2327/7.
(C.in C. H.F. 2331/21).

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE. — At 1130/21. (D.C.1137/21).
At 2330/21. (D.C.2339/21).

Blockship at Folkstone. — Your 1834/21/1. There is little likelihood of a suitable vessel becoming available in near future.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1447/21 to V.A. Dover).

Faroes A/A Defences. — Reference attack on Faroes today intend sending four 2 pounder Vickers guns which have been released from Scapa by Bofors guns to Faroes, p.m. tomorrow.
(A.C.O.S. 2359/21).

Movements.

H.43. — Intend sailing submarine H.43 at 2100/22 with convoy W.N.89 to Methil C.in C. Rosyth is requested to include her in first F.S. convoy for Southend after her arrival at Methil and C.in C. Nore to provide onward escort Southend to Sheerness.
(S.7. 1059/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Sunk Light Vessel.	T.H.V. PATRICIA escorted by A/S trawler SAPPHIRE sails at 0800/22 arriving Sunk Light Vessel at 0915, placing buoy, and leaving with L.V. in tow at 1230 for Harwich. E.T.A. 1400. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1105/21).
WARDOUR) VALOROUS) ALERT.)	S.A. Sweeper WARDOUR is to be sailed to make contact with VALOROUS and T.H.V. ALERT anchored in Q.Z.S. 181 off East Knock John Buoy by daylight tomorrow. WARDOUR is to sweep of these ships while working in Q.Z.S. 159, anchor with them on Saturday night and sweeping them back to B.2. Buoy on Sunday, thence returning to Sheerness independently. Fighter escort has been asked for on Saturday and fighter protection on Sunday. (C.in C. Nore, 1128/21).
OLYMPUS.	My 0931/20. Intend to sail OLYMPUS from Portsmouth unescorted 1700/22 via Needles Channel to R/V with 2 MLS. 110° Berry Head 3 miles at 0900/23. (S.5. 1130/21).
ARAWA.	C.in C. S.A. 1341/29/1 and Admty's 2104/13/2. ARAWA will be ready to leave Clyde p.m./24. Request escort may be provided. (F.O.C.N.P. 1150/21).
STURGEON.	Port of Blyth closed. Proceed to Methil until further orders. (S.6. 1444/21 to STURGEON). My 1444/21. Anchor within 2 cables of position 110° Methil fixed red light 18 cables. Proceed on main motor after passing May Island. (S.6. 2314/21 to STURGEON).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Northern Patrol.	Trawler Lines tonight. 2 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1504/21 and 1957/21).
CANTON CHURCHILL LEOPARD.	Sailed CANTON with CHURCHILL to R/V with LEOPARD in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1449/19/2 and F.O.C. N.P. 2100/20/2. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1800/21).
TAKU TALISMAN.	Your 1803/15 Part 1. Admty 1214/15 Capt: (S) 2 1008/21. TAKU, TALISMAN are to be routed as follows to Halifax. (C.in C. W.A. 1805/21 and 1808/21).
A.M.C's for Iceland.	My 1504/11. A.M.C's are expected to arrive Iceland as follows RANPURA 4/3 AURANIA 8/3, MONTCLARE 14/3, ALAUNIA 18/3, RAJPUTANA, 24/3, LACONIA 28/3 March. (F.O.C.3rd B.S. 1813/21).
Submarines.	Positions at 0800/22 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1844/21).
PANDORA.	Leaving Portsmouth 1830/21 for Gibraltar diving by day to position C routed as follows. (S.S. 1900/21 to TIGRIS). S.S./1215/6D. PANDORA sailed. E.T.A. 3400 Cape Spartel 12' 1600/27. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1903/21).
SKEENA ST. LAURENT.	Capt: D Greenock's 1305/16. Intend sailing SKEENA and ST. LAURENT to Halifax for refit p.m./23. (C.in C. W.A. 1911/21).
JACKAL KIPLING.	Sailed 1915. (C.in C. Plymouth 2030/21).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operations. — OBSTACLE is cancelled for today Friday. (C.in C. Plymouth, 0826/21 to H.Q.F.C.)

VESLAKARI. HONNINGSVAAG. (Jan Mayen). — Report instructions given to VESLAKARI to Admty and C.in C. H.F. forthwith. (A.C.N.S. H. 1131/21 to F.O. Iceland). Your 1131/21. Instructions VESLAKARI were given by Captain Ullring personnlly. She sailed in company with HONNINGSVAAG at 1620 G.M.T./19 for North Coast of Iceland by West Coast route. When off entrance of Eyjafjord (066° 10'N., 018° 30'W) VESLAKARI will be detached to proceed to Jan Mayen. Captain Ullring in HONNINGSVAAG proceed Apureyri to pick up remaining R.N.Expedition and then leave for Jan Mayen Island to R/V with VESLAKARI en route.

Time of sailing of HONNINGSVAAG from Apureyri will be reported. (F.O. Iceland 1229/21 to Admty).

Operation PAGEANT. — X.499 21/2. Reference PAGEANT. Understood Captain Ship has arranged following supply from own sources. Confirm. (Air Ministry 1735/21 to R.A.F. EO Glasgow). Movement Order No.363. (Air Ministry E.11 1730/21).

British Air Activity.

Lowestoft Own A/C attacked 16/2. — Following from Air Ministry begins:- "Blenheim V.54600 139 Squadron returning from Operationsl mission 1119/16 was engaged by heavy and light A.A. from ground defences. Aircraft was on Northerly course near Lowestoft. Tracer just missed. IFF was on and Fighter Command had been warned on identification. Correct colour of day fired.

This is fourth occasion that friendly bombers have been engaged by A.A. guns in Lowestoft area since a Blenheim was shot down on 22/1. Request occurrence be investigated urgently and Air Ministry informed of result. Urges that all A.A.

/defences

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Lowestoft Own A/C attacked 16/2. (Contd.)

defences be impressed of importance of strict fire discipline based on full knowledge of rules for opening fire on aircraft and thorough training in aircraft recognition. Ends."

2. Request this matter may be immediately and fully investigated and if it is found that naval units were concerned that instant action may be taken to ensure that the agreed rules for opening fire by ships in harbour are complied with.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1047/21 to C.in C. Nore).
A.245. 21/2.
To avoid continuance of mistaken engagements of friendly aircraft in Lowestoft - Yarmouth area, Naval Authorities desire to establish local equivalent of A.G.O.R. Class C to which it is proposed plots and identification should be passed. Request you arrange representative to report F.O.I.C. Yarmouth at Naval Base Yarmouth at 1100/22/2 for conference to decide details with Air Ministry Naval and local A.A. Command representatives.
(H.Q.F.C. 1530/21 to 12 Group).

Patrols.

Patrol STAND now in operation. Also 3 Blenheims on special patrols from Shetlands 1200 to 1700 one from Out Skerries 045° to depth 90 miles, one from Wateness 225° to depth 70 miles, one from Sumburgh 180° to depth 80 miles.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1240/21).

Search for U/Boat.

One Whitley A/C from Wick to search for U/Boat in 60° 15'N., 6° 10'W. E.T.A. 1930/21 remaining about 4 hours if nothing located.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1756/21).

/Escort

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Escort for RODNEY.

Expect escort by Sunderland aircraft throughout daylight/22. Second aircraft should relieve first aircraft about 1500. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2052/21 to RODNEY).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy O.B.287 SCOTTISH STANDARD hit.

Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy CURLY in 59° 31'N., 16° 30'W. (WANDERER 0925/21).
Convoy attacked by Heinkel. SCOTTISH STANDARD hit, badly damaged. MONTGOMERY standing by. Air escort essential. (WANDERER 0953/21).
Tanker SCOTTISH STANDARD engine room wrecked, on fire aft. Salvage considered possible if tug can reach her before after fuel tank gets alight. All pumps wrecked. Master and 40 men taken off, five in serious condition, three left dead. Position 059° 18'N., 16° 12'W. at 0830Z. Am standing by. (MONTGOMERY, 1330/21).
Your 1330/21. Tugs cannot arrive in under 36 hours. Report immediately whether conditions make it worth while sending them.
(C.in C. W.A. 1816/21 to MONTGOMERY).
Detach NORTHERN SPRAY to R/V with tugs ST. OLAVES and THAMES in 058° 10'N., 006° 00'W. at 0800 tomorrow. She will be required to escort tugs proceeding to SCOTTISH STANDARD bombed in 059° 18'N., 016° 12'W. 0930/21.
(C.in C. W.A. 1921/21 to MALCOLM).
SCOTTISH STANDARD unable to steam or steer. Conditions good. Heavy towing. Ship likely to remain afloat indefinitely. Orders for MONTGOMERY requested. (MONTGOMERY, 1940/21).
Casualties from air attack during 20/2 and 21/2.
ST. ROSARIO damaged by near miss and returning to harbour. B.L. HARPER similarly damaged and proceeding to Halifax for repairs along the same route as Commodore. SCOTTISH STANDARD direct hit aft. All attacks low altitude made on flanks or stragglers by single Heinkel appearing suddenly from clouds or snowstorms. Escort quite unable to cover whole convoy consider continual air escort during daylight essential if similar cases are to be

/avoided

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

avoided. It has been suggested that A.S.V. transmission may assist aircraft to find convoy and these were stopped after dawn attacks this morning with subsequent immunity.
(WANDERER 1945/21).
Your 1940/21. Stand by SCOTTISH STANDARD until arrival of tugs ST. OLAVES and THAMES sailing from Stornoway daylight 22nd escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY.
(C.in C. W.A. 2231/21 to MONTGOMERY).

Shetlands. My 1105/18. N.O.I.C. Lerwick now reports that the two so-called bombs dropped on Bressay near A.A. Battery were in fact two auxiliary petrol tanks. R.A.F. are investigating fragments and a sample of the fuel contents.
(A.C.O.S. 1046/21).

Invergordon. My 1650/17/2. Recovery of oil fuel progressing satisfactorily. Estimate probable 2500 tons recoverable at decreasing rate.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1107/21).

Convoy W.N. Odd. Air raid imminent, on Odd numbered W.N. convoy.
(Lyness W/T 1200/21).
Fighter escort despatched to assist.
(Lyness W/T 1203/21).

GREENLAND. (British 1281 tons). Arrived Stornoway a.m. 21st. Reports attack by aircraft 80 miles 308° Butt of Lewis at 1145/20. 4 casualties landed. Ship undamaged.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1301/21).

Chatham Area. During night 20/21. Bombs were dropped as follows in Chatham Area:-
(S.C.E. Chatham, 1540/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Chatham Area. (Contd.)	Report for night 20/21. Damage at Dockyard by Air Raid. (C.in C. Nore, 2120/21).
TARIA. (Bombed 18/2).	Your 1311/19. Further to my 1547/20. Killed 5th Engineer and 2 Chinese Ratings. Injured 3rd Officer and 3 Chinese Ratings. (D.T.D. 1659/21).
Faroes Attacked. LINCOLN CITY, sunk.	My 1533 to A.C.O.S. only. Bombing attack by two aircraft presumed Heinkel 111. Targets were oiler WAR PINDARI in Skaale Fiord undamaged, oil tanker THORSHAVEN undamaged, and LINCOLN CITY sunk. Approximately 8 ratings and no officers lost. One enemy aircraft brought down by combined machine gun fire of LEICESTER CITY and military. 4 Prisoners taken. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1715/21 to A.C.O.S.)
HILL. (Norwegian 496 tons).	At 1930/20 attacked by enemy aircraft. Engaged enemy and damaged tail of machine. Position 9 miles N.W. by W. from St. Ives. (N.O.I.C. Barry, 1736/21).

Mining.

Z.M.E.19.	Intend leaving Milford Haven 1700 today for operation Z.M.E. 19, to lay at 2230, returning on completion about 0315/22. (PLOVER 1018/21).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

BORDE QUEENWORTH CORBRAE CORFIELD.	Are to operate as part of the Sheerness minesweeping force. It is not considered that vessels of this size should normally operate at night in the Estuary. Their sweeping should therefore usually be done by day. Fighter cover being asked for. It is desirable that when practicable these vessels should not operate in depths of less than eight fathoms. Vessels are to fly mark VI balloons when operating. (C.in C. Nore 1032/21).
Tyne.	Port will have to remain closed till sweeper fitted with S.A. Gear A Type Mark 2 is ready for service. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1033/21).
Thames Estuary.	One red mine detonated by L.L. Trawlers at 2140/20 in 143° B.5 buoy 3 cables. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 1120/21).
Mine Messages in case of Invasion.	Code words and instructions. (V.C.N.S. 1312/21). See Summaries Folder.
	Mine detonated by S.A.Gear at 1215/21 in 249° Knob Bell Buoy 8 cables. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 1530/21).
PELICAN (Mined 19/2).	Sheerness departure 1405. PELICAN in tow of tugs SUN 10 and FOREMOST 22 for Blackwell. (Cmdre, Sheerness 1422/21).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Tees.

My 1645/16. Port of Tees opened.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1600/21).
My 1427/21. Tees now open.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1911/21 to WALLACE, PITCHLEY).

Aberdeen.

Port of Aberdeen will be closed between 0600 and 1200 on the 22nd during special search by S/A trawler.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1736/21).

Swansea.

One red mine detonated by S.A. Gear at 1430/21 in 116° 2.45 miles from Mumbles Light House.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1740/21).
At 0945/21. One Mine detonated by S.A. Gear in 132° 1.5 miles from Mumbles Lighthouse.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1750/21).

MOST SECRET.

21. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

MARIE LEONHARDT.

HARVESTER's 1930/20 is passed to you for information. Port Patric Radio and Malin Head Radio report that they did not intercept this transmission. (C. in C. W.A. 0025/21.)

HIPPER-class Cruiser at Brest.

Preliminary report of photographic reconnaissance 21/2/41 shows the HIPPER class cruiser is dry dock at Brest. The dock is dry. (D.D.I.C. 1438/21, and 1654/21.) (St. Eval 1445/21, to H.Q.C.C.

Miscellaneous.

Icefield.

Between (a) 066° 15' N, 031° 20' W, and (b) 066° 40' N, 027° 10' W. Details. (WORCESTERSHIRE 1101/20.)

Object off Mull.

S/S EMPIRE FUSILIER reports 1400/20 object on surface in 56° 15' N. 06° 07' W, approx. Suggested may be aircraft sinking as smoke was observed on surface afterwards. R.A.F. made reconnaissance at 1545/20 and reported sighting large patch of fresh oil in position 56° 13' N, 06° 20' W. NOTTS COUNTY despatched to investigate and reported no trace of anything either surmerged or floating in area 6 miles E.S. and S.W. of position. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1300/21.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.2.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

General

ORDUNA — (With Willingdon Mission) BRIGHTON and LANCASTER left 1400/21 for R.V. (TRELAWNEY, 1401/21)

Route for Petsamo-bound ships. — (1) In consequence of Petsamo - bound vessels being constantly intercepted by German patrols and taken into Vardo certain masters have suggested a route taking them further to northward in order eventually to make a land - fall further East without the chance of German interception.
(2) In view of new mined area described in my 1117/15 to D.N.I. and nature of Arctic Coast do you contemplate any change of route.
(N.A.Stockholm 1736/21 to Admty.)

Shipping in Channel — To reduce danger of air attacks, shipping at sea in Channel is to be reduced to a minimum during daylight.
2. Ships are to be routed to arrive at following points at sunrise. Destination Plymouth - 180 Rame Head 2 point 2 miles Destination Falmouth or Dartmouth - Outer end of swept channel.
3. Ships are to be sailed from these points half an hour after sunset.
4. Eastbound ships are not to pass Lands End before dark, and are to be routed to Falmouth unless they can reach Plymouth or Dartmouth in accordance with para 2. Westbound ships are to be routed to Falmouth unless they can pass Lands End before sunrise.
5. Ships between Plymouth and Falmouth routed by inner channel may proceed in Daylight.
6. C. in C., W.A. 1248/4/12/40 is cancelled.
(C. in C., Plymouth 1836/21)

/Coastal Convoys...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.

E.N. 75.	0630/21. Escorts. 14 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 0650/21) List (1124/21, 1700/21) LACENNIA M/S trawler did not sail (C. in C. Rosyth 1255/21) off Buchan Ness (STELLA CAPELLA 2330/21).
E.N.O. 74.	E.T.A. (CAPE MARIATO, 0800/21).
F.N. 12.	NAUTILUS sailed to Humber (N.C.S.O. Thames 0830/21) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber 1040/21) Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1148/21, C. in C. Rosyth 2340/21).
E.N.U. 74.	Arrived 0800/21, 5 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1025/21).
W.N.U. 88.	2300/21, unescorted, 3 ships. All with kites N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1026/21, 2345/21).
F.S. 13.	Non-arrivals (N.C.S.O. Humber 1038/21).
F.S. 17.	Position, 13 ships for London (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1100/21) Arrived except 2 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 1829/21, 2134/21).
F.N. 12A.	0830/21. 45 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 1101/21) Escorts and time. (C. in C. Nore 1200/21) List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Thames 1324/21). All ships in F.N. 12A bound north of Humber except those for Methil should be diverted to Humber. (C. in C. Rosyth 1427/21). 328. Your 1710/21. See my 1427/21 and my 1911/21. No northbound ships except those bound for Tees can be ~~accepted~~ in F.N. 12A. (C. in C. Rosyth 1919/21 to N.C.S.O. Humber). Note. Both these last 2 messages were cancelled by C. in C. Rosyth 2223/21. Ships joining (N.C.S.O. Humber 1710/21) Cancel my 1427/21 and my 1919 21st neither to all addressees. Following will join F.N. No. 12A from Humber 5 for Tyne and 1 for Blyth which should be diverted to Tees 4 for Tees 8 for Methil. Ships already in convoy for Seaham and Sunderland should be Tynemouth to Tees and those for Tyne and Blyth should be diverted to Humber. (C. in C. Rosyth 2223/21).

War Diary.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.N. 14.	Sails Southend 0830/22. (C. in C. Nore 1200/21) Code "Prize" (C. in C. Rosyth 1547/21).
F.S. 17A.	Due Flamborough 0330/22. (C. in C. Nore 1200/21) List of ships & destinations (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1559/21) Sailed from Methil 2300/20. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1602/21) Ships joining (N.C.S.O. Humber 1712/21 C. in C. Rosyth 1921/21).
E.N. 76. W.N. 89.	Act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 76 with HORNPIPE PENTLAND FIRTH sailing 1630/23. After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail FOWEY to join W.N. 89 with HUGH WALPOLE, INDIAN STAR due Duncansby Head 1300/25. Code word for E.N. 76 PADDLE and for W.N. 89 MUSTER. (C. in C. Rosyth 1810/21 to FOWEY).
E.N. 73.	Arrivals (N.C.S.O. Oban 1058/21).
Various M.V's.	Escorted and independent (C. in C. Plymouth 1358/21).
W.N. 88 (O)	Sailed Escort NOTTS COUNTY, SOUTHERN STAR, 5 ships (N.C.S.O. Oban 1517/21).
W.N. 87.	E.T.A. Kinnaird Hd. Please arrange light. (ULLSWATER 1550/21 to C. in C. Rosyth).
F.S. 19, 20.	Escorts (C. in C. Rosyth 1745/17 1624/21).
"Warrant"	Sailed less one ship. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1637/21).
F.S, F.N.	Forecast of sailings and escorts (C. in C. Rosyth 1650/21, F.O.I.C. Harwich no T.O.O. Rec. 2002/21).

/W.N.U 87.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.N. 14.	Sails Southend 0830/22. (C. in C. Nore 1200/21) Code "Prize" (C. in C. Rosyth 1547/21).
F.S. 17A.	Due Flamborough 0330/22. (C. in C. Nore 1200/21) List of ships & destinations (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1559/21) Sailed from Methil 2300/20. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1602/21) Ships joining (N.C.S.O. Humber 1712/21 C. in C. Rosyth 1921/21).
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W.N. 88 (O)	Sailed Escort NOTTS COUNTY, SOUTHERN STAR, 5 ships (N.C.S.O. Oban 1517/21).
W.N. 87.	E.T.A. Kinnaird Hd. Please arrange light. (ULLSWATER 1550/21 to C. in C. Rosyth).
F.S. 19, 20.	Escorts (C. in C. Rosyth 1745/17 1624/21).
"Warrant"	Sailed less one ship. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1637/21).
F.S, F.N.	Forecast of sailings and escorts (C. in C. Rosyth 1650/21, F.O.I.C. Harwich no T.O.O. Rec. 2002/21).

/W.N.U 87.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

W.N.U. 87.	Sailed with one addition (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1747/21).
3 M.V's.	Sailing 1830/22 (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 2104/21 amended 1853/22).

Ocean Convoys.

Revised scheme of convoy sailings.	Your 1917/20 the wastefulness in local escorts of the time table in A.M. 0054/20 is fully appreciated. A revised scheme for future convoy sailings is being prepared not only to obviate this but also to produce a more steady flow of shipping in and out of U.K. Ports. Proposals will be forwarded for your remarks as soon as possible. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1558/21 to C. in C. W.A).
S.L. 64.	P.L.M. 17 arrived (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0905/21). Following ships not present. (C. in C. W.A. 0008/21) Following arrived (N.C.S.O. Oban 1215/21).
O.B. 289.	0630/21. Unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0915/21).
O.B.C. 289.	0330/21, 10 ships, escort MALLOW (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0355/21) List of ships & destinations (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1013/21, 2327/21) ships which did not sail (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1020/21).
O.B.C. 290.	2030/21, 21 ships, escort not known. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0955/21).
S.L. 65.	CAVINA to join (F.O.C.N.P. 1050/21).

/H.X. 110.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.
(contd).

H.X. 110.	STAD HAARLEM returned for repairs, EMPIRE METEOR returned unable to maintain convoy speed (N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 1101/21).
S.C. 23.	BRAVE GOER returned due to weather (N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 1101/21).
O.G. 53.	SCIMITAR rejoins (C. in C; W.A. 1403/21).
O.B. 288.	EMPIRE STEELHEAD returned with engine trouble (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1603/21).
H.X. 111.	AURANIA to be ocean escort. Arrangements. (B.S. 3 1645/21).
S.C. 22.	Meet (C. in C. W.A. 1718/21 to GEORGETOWN etc).
H.X. 109	Sailing tel. as amended by Adty (D.T.D. 1820/21).
O.B. 295.	My 1914/20. 12th Escort group sailing with O.B. 295 has no convoy to meet. (C. in C. W.A. 1916/21).

MILITARY CONVOYS.

STRATHNAVER.	My 0116/17. Sailing date of STRATHNAVER now 2nd or 3rd March. 2. Embarkation will take place on 1.3. 3. Numbers to embark now as follows. (D. of S.T. 2017/21).
W.S. 6. W.S.6.B.	List of ships and contents. (D.O.D.(F) 1339/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

CASUALTIES & DEPOTS.

CLARE.	Have been in collision with motor vessel PETERTOWN in 50° 47' N. 04° 50' W. who is proceeding undamaged. CLARE has suffered structural damage above water line and degaussing is broken. Am returning to Plymouth pending further instructions. (CLARE 0245/21). Your 0428/21. E.T.A. 1600, Request Fighter escort. (CLARE 1530/21 to C. in C. Plymouth).
YORK CITY.	Arrived. W/T broken down. Requires Marconi wireless engineer. (Holyhead 0930/21).
SOLARIUM.	Returned from B.H.X. 107 for repairs to steering engine. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 0934/21).
EMPIRE TARPON.	Ex E.N. 73 delayed with engine trouble will not sail in O.B. 289. Ship's staff can repair in 48 hours and ship will sail in next convoy. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1128/21).
JESSMORE. (Collision 19/2).	JESSMORE has sunk. I am returning for fuel with 40 survivors. (SCIMITAR 1150/21).
VENOMOUS	My 1028/21. F.L. pump of starboard dynamo engine failed during trials, new pump has to be obtained and fitted. Approx. time required 3 days. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1153/21).
HADIOTIS.	(Greek, 4386 Tons) Attempts to float HADIOTIS aground Leixoes have so far failed. Position serious but not hopeless. Request Ministry of Shipping may be informed. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1202/21).
CAMELIA.	(Corvette) Arrived with defective D.C. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1205/21).

/CORBIS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. (contd).

CORBIS.	Returned from BHX 109 for repairs to windlass. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1211/20).
DANEMAN.	(A/S Trawler) Arrived with engine room defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1520/21).
JERNLAND.	Bound Blyth in ballast. Lost propeller at 1530 and is anchored 20 S. buoy. (COTSWOLD 1545/21).
Wreck off Sheringham.	Wreck showing mast above high water reported in 053° 06' 30" N. 001° 18' 04"E. (C. in C. Rosyth 1633/21 to VERSATILE etc). (Hydrographer 1841/21).
Wreckage.	Investigating presumed wreckage of submarine 303°. Cape Wrath 180 miles. (NORTHERN CHIEF 1925/21). Your 2045. Do not sink pending further orders. Stand by till daylight. (S.O. Trawlers, N.P. 2140/21 to NORTHERN CHIEF). Object remaining afloat. Your 2140 understood (NORTHERN CHIEF 2220/21 to S.O.N.P. Trawlers) My 2140/21. Make close examination in daylight and report area(s). Await further instructions. (S.O. N.P.T. 2234/21 to NORTHERN CHIEF). My 1925/21. Consider U-Boat bottom up. Endeavouring to sink by gunfire. My position is 060° 14'N. 009° 57'W. Standing by until daylight. Do you concur. (NORTHERN CHIEF 2045/21 to S.O.N.P. Trawlers) Object hit with 4 H.E. Shells. Still floating. Request instructions. (NORTHERN CHIEF 2145/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

FORT RICHEPANSE — Gibraltar arrival 21/2, 1640 REGISTAN escorting French S.S. FORT RICHEPANSE. (S.O.I., Gib., 1704/21).
REGISTAN 1230/18/2. French RICHEPANSE from Martineaux to Casablanca cargo 1100 tons bananas which have been on board 18 days. 83 passengers including women and children. 43 crew, latter appear chiefly Vichy. (C.C.S.O. Gib. 1915/21 to Admty.).

North Atlantic.

FENRIS — Overdue shipping. Norwegian FENRIS due Capetown 17/2 from Basra not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1001/21).

LORNASTON
BUR
(ex S.L.S.64) — British Ship LORNASTON 8 knots and Norwegian BUR 7½ knots now at Ponta Delgada ready to sail 22/2. Request instructions whether to be sailed independently having regard to route of S.L.65.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1012/21 to Admty.).

Cable repairs. — My 1603/17. Intend sailing MIRROR p.m./21 to carry out four repairs to cable near Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1058/21, to Admty.).

TUBA
H.O.54. — TUBA with convoy H.O.54.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1150/21).

RENOWN defects. — My 1924/11. Details of defects. Request RENOWN may be docked for temporary repairs on arrival. Estimated time 4 days.
(S.O. Force H 1229/21, to F.O.C.N.A.).

MARGUERITE — Lying off Ponta Delgada awaiting vacant berth inside harbour.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1526/21 to Admty.).

/ Air Report .....

War Diary. 21.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Air Report. One patrol off Casablanca to prevent interception of incoming captured French ships. London K5263 - force landed 1715/20 and sank 0100/21 after being four hours in tow by destroyer. Crew safe.
(200 Group, 1700/21).

DAGMAR I Your 1152/11. Have you any news of DAGMAR I ? (D.T.D. 1824/21 to F.O.C.N.A.).
(Refers to air attack on H.G.53 on 9/2).

Ships of S.L.S.64. Your 1917/19, can you advise probable delay in providing lifeboats. If considerable other arrangements will require to be considered.
(D.T.D., 1940/21, to Consul, Funchal).
Your 1917/19. Try secure small craft as lifeboats. Ministry will pay alternative rafts. Avoidance delay first consideration.
(D. of S.T. 2125/21 to N.C.S.O. Funchal).

RUBENS H.M. Trawler RUBENS did not arrive Gibraltar with O.J.52. Request her wireless call sign.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2006/21 to Admty.).
Your 2005/21 Signal letters of RUBENS are OQWQ. (D.S.O. 2216/21 to F.O.C.N.A.).

South Atlantic.

Enemy Units. Signals indicated enemy surface units assembling 200 miles 031° S. 011° (? W.) at 1727/20 reliability 80%.
(C.in C. S.A., 0105/21, to S.A. Squadron.).
Your 0105/21. Adty. experience suggests that signal at 1727/20 G.M.T. was in the nature of an activity report and was intended primarily for reception by control. It does not appear to have been inter-communication or of an operational nature.
(D.D.I.C. 1252/21 to C.in C. S.A.).

/ CORNWALL. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CORNWALL. My 1430Z/11. Will be ready to sail P.M./28 on completion of exercise programme and embarking fuel and ammunition. Request route. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0743Z/21, to C.in C. S.A.).
Your 1430/11, provided no unforeseen circumstances arise two days can be allowed, (exercise programme).
(C.in C. S.A., 2053N/21, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

W.S.6. escort. Local escort sails to rendezvous as follows, FORESIGHT (Capt. (D)8) and FORESTER in position 017° 20' N. 027° 45' W. at 0800 N./25. MILFORD in position 013° 40' N. 026° 30' W. at 1000/26, WISHART VIDETTE in position 012° 20' N. 023° 15' W. at 0800/27.
(C.in C. S.A., 1213/21 to MALAYA, BIRMINGHAM, PHOEBE, SURPRISE).

HAMLA Broke away from S.L.64 and arrived 4 days before remainder of convoy. Master states could not keep up. Request reasons for sailing HAMLA in fast portion and Master's declared speed. Last sailing from Freetown was in SLS.53.
(D.T.D. 1559/21 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

German mine in Table Bay. My 2305/16 and 1640/17 and S.O.(I)'s 1720/20 a drifting mine has now been destroyed by S.D.C. in 240° 11½ miles from Dassen Island Lighthouse. Mine German Type X painted pale red lead in absolutely new condition no barnacles. No explosion on being sunk. Prohibited area being established though D. of S.D. is inclined to think this mine has come from the south on the strong northerly set I find it difficult to disassociate it from the vessel reported near the position.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1215/21).

/ S.L. and S.L.S. Convoys, escort. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

S.L. and S.L.S. Convoys, escort.

Arrangements made for two local escorts to meet combined S.L. and S.L.S. convoys. Future convoys should be so arranged that faster ships can part company as a formed body when ocean escort leaves. Commodores of Convoy S.L.65 and S.L.66 are being instructed through ocean escorts to reform their convoys at sea accordingly.
(D.T.D. 1603/21 to C.in C. S.A.).

STRATHALLAN, "Q" report.

Request Master of STRATHALLAN may be asked whether his ship was near position 19° 40' N. 18° 25' W. at 0740Z on 16/2. Dutch ship FRIESLAND has reported suspicious ship there at time in question and description might fit STRATHALLAN.
(C.in C. S.A., 1801/21, to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Enemy Unit.

D/F Bearings at 1717Z/21 indicate surface unit within 80 miles of 032° S 008° W. Reliability 60%, within 200 miles reliability 85%.
(C.in C. S.A., 1959/21, to S.A. Sqdn.).

CHRISTIAN HUYGENS. DORSETSHIRE.

My 2307/19 F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1237/21 and N.O.I.C. Durban 1045/20. If CHRISTIAN HUYGENS docks Durban she will not arrive Capetown until about 14/3. DORSETSHIRE will now arrive Simonstown 25/2.
(C.in C. S.A., 2055/21, to Admty.).

Troop Movements.

Your 1233/17 and F.O.C.N.A. 1010/19. EMPIRE TROOPER may be available. DOMINION MONARCH must not be used. Proposals for French Brigade, and reallocation of troops.
(S.S.T., 2259/21 to C.in C. S.A.).
See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Catania, Comiso bombed. Four Wellingtons attacked Catania and two attacked Comiso Aerodromes last night. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 0745/21 N.O.I.C. Malta, 1115/21 to C.in C. Med.)

Air Report. 1. Egypt. 20/2. Number of unidentified enemy aircraft bombed and machine gunned Benghasi at dawn slightly damaging main road south of town. No casualties. A.A. defences destroyed 1 in flames. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1135/21, to Air Min.).

ILLUSTRIOUS Admty. 1332/30/1. Lieut. Reid has made his report. Consider repairs would be expedited if he proceeds to refitting Port. (C.in C. Med., 1139/21, to Admty.).

Danger Area, Central Med. My 2021/20. In para 1 for "in a 162° direction to Benghazi" read "in a 169° direction to Benghazi". (Head of M. 1240/21 to C.in C. Med., etc.).

Operation M.C.8. Operation M.C.8 successfully completed at Malta. Force B sailed in accordance with V.A.L.F's 1207/21. Large number of M.E.109 operating round Island about 1130 and one other enemy aircraft crossed later, all at high altitude. This and some cloud cover quite possibly prevented cruiser from being observed. (N.A., Malta, 2111/21 to C.in C. Med.).

FRANCO FASSIO. Re sinking (C.in C. Med. 2215/21) See ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Kismayu, enemy intelligence.	Examination of prisoners Mombasa and Materiel at Kismayu produces following:- (i) Enemy Intelligence in Somaliland excellent. Kismayu evacuated in 2 panic stages. First coincided with (corrupt group) initiation of "Breach". Second with arrival H.M. Ships and three service conference at Mombasa 10/2. (ii) Inevitable conclusion enemy terrified of sea and air bombardment especially of aircraft carriers. (S.O.I. Kilindini, 0620Z/21, to Admty.).
GOTUMPJELL	Capt. O.S. Singapore 0723/19. Ship sailed from Bahrein 14/2 with following cargo for Beira and/or Lourenco Marques (S.O.I. Bahrein, 0717Z/21, to C.in C. E.I.).
CITY OF ROUBAIX fire.	Reported fire No. 3 Hold at at 1020Z/12 later spreading to Number 2. Arrived Port Sudan 14/2 where fire extinguished. Not possible to determine whether fire due to spontaneous combustion or sabotage. (S.N.O. Red Sea, 0842Z/21.).
Convoy B.S.16. Port Sudan portion.	Sailing telegram. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 0851Z/21).
Massawa bombed.	Dive bomb attack on Massawa dawn 21/2 by 7 Albacore. Two attacked destroyers in Southern Anchorage one probably hit, one observed near miss. Four aircraft attacked destroyers main quay, reasonable chance of hits two destroyers. One aircraft bombed submarine in Northern Anchorage from one thousand feet better reasonable chance of hits. All aircraft returned. One aircraft reports over 30 Merchant ships in Southern Anchorage and five including two twin passenger ships in Ghubbet Soghra. (S.O. Force K 0918Z/21, to C.in C. E.I.).

/ Ships at Kismayu. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Ships at Kismayu. My 0528/20. Ship still afloat is Jugo Slav DURMITOR believed to have been brought in by German prize crew. MARGHERA and CARSO scuttled but other scuttled ship not yet identified. (C.in C. E.I. 1148Z/21).

CANADIAN CRUISER raider report. Dispositions. British CANADIAN CRUISER (7178 tons) in 003° 36' S. 047° 18' E. at 1606Z/21 made an R distress signal and reported being chased by Battle Cruiser.
Following is position H.M. Ships in vicinity at 1800Z/21 (a) Convoy W.S.5B in position 004° S. 043° 05' escorted by HAWKINS and AUSTRALIA. Speed 13 knots (b) GLASGOW in the vicinity reports investigating. (c) ENTERPRISE in position 001° 30' S. 042° 40' proceeding towards area at 20 knots (d) Convoy W.S.5.B.X. in position 004° 30' S. 042° 10' escorted by EMERALD. Speed about 12 knots bound for vicinity of Mombasa. CANADIAN CRUISER is due during the night Durban 26/2 routed through 003° S. 047° speed 10 knots. She may have reported her longitude incorrectly.
(C.in C. E.I. 1746Z/21 to E.I. Sqdn.).

Force V. My 1746/21. GLASGOW, EMERALD, HERMES and CAPETOWN are to form Force V. Ships will be ordered by me to search for raider reported in my 1746/21.
EMERALD is to report on arrival Mombasa when she will be ready for sea.

KANDAHAR KANDAHAR is to rendezvous with W.S.5 B.X. in accordance with my 0800/19 and escort it into harbour.

SHROPSHIRE (v) SHROPSHIRE is to act in accordance with her 1306/21 (C.in C. East Indies only) reporting when bombardment is completed. (C.in C. E.I., 2102Z/21, to E.I. Sqdn.).

Operation "Canvas". Situation and programme. (C.in C. E.I., 2142Z/21) See Operations Volume.

U.S.10. Summary of commitments. (D.S.T., 2300/21 to P.S.T.O. Bombay) See Operations Volume.

Massawa. 20/2. 4 South African Hurricanes machine gunned (Massawa?) Aerodrome.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., No T.O.O./21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.2.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Singapore Conference. Your 0209/20. Reply. (1 S.L., 0209/21) See Operations Volume.

Troop-Carrying Aircraft. Reinforce 3 Valentias 31 Squadron arrived Kallang 0505 G.M.T. (A.H.Q., Far East 1150/21).

Indo-China Agreement. Your 04272/15. Following from Foreign Office. We agree with views contained in Governor's telegram No. 55, of 13/2 and you may inform the Governor-General of Indo-China that we regard the Agreement as now in force. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2037/21 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

TORNUS, "Q" Report (cancelled). Following read by Valencia Radio. QQQQ 38.48 N., 46.31 W. Searchlights being played upon us by suspicious vessel. (TORNUS, 0554/21). Cancel my 0249 Z/21. (TORNUS, 0625/21). Intercept. DE NNWS 2 Addressed TORNUS. We are U.S. C.G. weather station No.2 at the position searchlight on our flag 0622/21. DE GZFP (TORNUS) Cancel my QQQQ. 0249Z/21 (Ends.). (Valentia Radio, 0626/21).

NEWARK WELLS My 1131/16. NEWARK and WELLS delayed at St. Johns N.F. by minor defects and weather. (F.O. 3 B.S., 1045/21, to Admty.).

B.H.X.111. Departure BHX 111 ocean escort RAJPUTANA returning to Halifax through 42.40 N 60.00 W. (Cdre. i/c Bermuda, 1243/21).

Greek Ship for Japan. Please instruct one Greek vessel either OLGA EMBIRICOU or EVILIVANOS whichever longest at Comox to proceed to Japan. Greek Committee concurs. Master should be instructed that if he receives message "papers left behind will be forwarded" he should return at once or proceed suitable U.S. or British port other than Hong Kong. (Head of M. 1317/21 to N.S.H.Q.Ottawa.).

/ N.Z. Air Personnel Escort. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

N.Z. Air Personnel, Escort.	C.in C. A.W.I. 1301/4. Reply re escort between Auckland and Vancouver. (D.O.D.(F) 1737/21 to C.in C. A.W.I., etc.) See Operations Volume.
Martinique, Intelligence. re Vichy French.	Following from Administrator St. Lucia, (Begins). French Army Doctor arrived from Martinique, 18/2, reports Vichy Gov't handed over to Germany 31/1 all stock of DM Poisonous gas, also that Pilots of 2 (French) Seaplanes which followed escaping seaplane to St. Lucia were on their return arrested for failing as ordered to drop bombs on St. Lucia and that Martinique Gov't announced that 3 occupants of escaping seaplane were imprisoned St. Lucia. (Ends). (C.in C. A.W.I., 1933/21, to Admty.)

Australia.

HERBORG	Norwegian tanker HERBORG due to leave Fremantle 22/2 for Pladjoe, Sumatra, is now wanted Balik Papan, Borneo. Request necessary action. (D.T.D. 1936/21, to A.C.N.B.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.2.1941. Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

BABITONGA.	My 1801/19. Brazilian authorities have definite notification that BABITONGA will not be allowed to sail while she has on board the 986 tons of diesel oil in drums embarked on 18/2 on grounds that same is in excess of bunkers required for voyage to nearest friendly port. 1543/21.
RHAKOTIS	Antofagasta
BOGOTA QUITO	Coquimbo
ERLANGEN	Puerto Mouth
FRANKFURT OSORNO FRIWALL	Talcahuano

Information received that Chilean authorities have issued orders to prevent from sailing. (D.S. 535).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

RAMB IV	At Massawa, reported converted into a hospital ship. (D.S. 535).
MARGHERA CARSO	See East Indies.
Sinking of FRANCO FASSIO.	Your 1350/18. Two Italian Ships were sunk by TRITON in this area, one of about 8000 tons at sea in position 44° 10½' N., 08° 52' E. on 24/10/40 and one at anchor off Savona on 6/10. No survivors were rescued by TRITON. (C.in C. Med., 2215/21, to Admty.).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

BERNARDIN DE SAINT PIERRE	Passed Sunda Straits 0405/20 for Saigon. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, C8232/21, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.2.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

2051/20.	D/F indicates U/Boat was in a position approx. midway between Faeroe Islands and Shetlands Islands possibly returning home or may be on patrol. (D.D.I.C. 1032/21).
1315.	From Aircraft. One S/M submerged bearing 0 0 0 Distance 0 miles course 360° position 60.15 N., 6.10 W. (Scapa W/T, 1315/21) (D.D.I.C. 1404/21).
2052.	57° - 60° N., W. of 15° , very indefinite. (D.S. 536).
2314.	57° - 59° N., 14° - 18° W. indefinite. (D.S. 536).
0143.	57½° - 58½° N., 16° - 20° W. indefinite. (D.S. 536).
2135.	58½° - 57½° N., 20° - 24° W., very indefinite. (D.S. 536).
2134.	54° - 57° N., W. of 15°, very indefinite (D.S. 536).
0948.	53° - 54° N., W. of 15°, indefinite. (D.S. 536).
0810.	47° N., 7½° W., approx. indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 533).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

German.
One Faroes - Shetlands 2051/20 may be homeward bound or on patrol.
Possibly 1 still 60° - 61° N. 14° - 17° W.
One 58° - 59° 30' N. 18° - 22° W.
One 56° - 57° N. 20° - 23° W.
One 100 miles of 53° 30' N. 19° W.
One 100 miles of 52° 30' N. 22° 30' W.
One about 50° N. 30° W. 0142/20 due to return to Lorient.
One N.W. Finisterre en route Lorient.

Italian.
One 60 miles of 54° 20' N. 16° 40' W.
One 30 miles of 46° N. 7° 30' W. probably patrolling.
Five more at sea.
(D.D.I.C. 1225/21).

MOST SECRET.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Search for HIPPER.

There are indications that the HIPPER may sail from Brest. JACKAL, KASHMIR and KIPLING left Plymouth at 1902 today for a position off Brest. Air reconnaissance of Brest and air patrol and search have been arranged. Force H. (RENOWN and ARK ROYAL) returning towards Gibraltar from escorting Convoy W.S.6 is proceeding towards a position 300 miles west of Finisterre to carry out an air search on 24/2 as long as fuel permits.

U-boat attacks.

S.S. SCOTTISH STANDARD which was bombed and badly damaged in the N.W. Approaches yesterday was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy S/m today, MONGOMERY who was standing by her, attacked a firm contact. HURRICANE and PERIWINKLE both also report attacking (different) U-boats in the N.W. Approaches today.

8

British Air Activity.

Wellingtons attacked Wilhelmshaven and Boulogne last night. Coastal Command aircraft attacked the HIPPER class cruiser at Brest.

Reconnaissances were flown today to Stadlandet and Bergen, and a sweep was made to the Heligoland Bight. Patrols were flown in the Fair Island Channel, in the southern part of the North Sea and A/S patrols in the Minches and south of the Faroes.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

The following attacks are reported today:- Convoy O.B. 288 in the N.W. Approaches at 0900. S.S.KINGSTON HILL and KELIA damaged. Convoy E.N. 75 off Wick. No damage reported. Convoy O.B. 287 in the North Minch. No damage. Unknown ship in the north part of the Bay of Biscay.

A heavy attack was made again last night on Swansea. There are several U.X.B in the Docks area, but apparently no damage was caused in the docks and there were no known naval casualties.

In view of the increase in attacks on ships in the N.W. Approaches by aircraft vulnerable to attack by light machine guns the Admiralty have proposed to the War Office that troops should be kept on deck in daylight in transports, ready to open fire with rifles and machine guns.

Mining.

Operation ZME 19.

PLOVER last night laid mines off the South east coast of Ireland.

Mines laid off Brest.

42 Hampdens were despatched last night to lay mines off Brest. 36 aircraft laid mines in the correct area and 2 outside the area.

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (contd).

Enemy Mining.

Mines were laid off the Mumbles during the air attack on Swansea last night, and in the Humber tonight between 1930 and 2200. Two mines were dropped at 1600 off Fowey and the port was closed. A mine is reported to have been dropped in Falmouth Harbour today.

Mines were detonated to-day off Harwich, Humber and in the approach to the Tyne.

Five further British mines were found on the coast of Iceland.

North Atlantic.

Search for HIPPER.

Force H. See Home Commands.

Mediterranean.

Mining of Suez Canal.

Enemy aircraft were over the Canal between 0400 and 0600 today. Some mines were laid. Bombs were also dropped in the Canal zone last night.

Benghazi bombed. TERROR damaged.

Benghazi harbour was bombed by 4 German A/C's shortly after dawn today. Bombs fell near TERROR and damaged her (see 24/2) Little damage ashore was caused, except to the road. Bombs were also dropped near Derna.

MOST SECRET.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Forces. T, V, W.

Commencing today, ships taking part in Italian Somaliland operations are to be known as Force W. HERMES and ENTERPRISE when acting as a unit are to be known as Force T.
Force V see 21/2. AUSTRALIA was added to Force V today.

Search for Raider.

At 0515 G.M.T. to-day Dutch S.S. RANTAU PANDJANG made a raider distress message in a position about 280 miles E.S.E. of the position where the S.S. CANADIAN CRUISER was attacked yesterday. The German official communique this morning reports that their naval forces sank the CANADIAN CRUISER in the Indian Ocean.

At 0818Z to-day GLASGOW sighted a pocket battleship in 8° 30'S. 51° 35'E. and shadowed, using her one effective aircraft, but lost touch later in the day in reduced visibility.

8

CANBERRA is proceeding from 5° 10'N. 76° 40'E. at 1600 to 6° S. 60° E; SHROPSHIRE from bombarding Brava (near Mogadishu) this morning to 9° S. 54° E; CAPETOWN left Mombasa at 0730 for the Seychelles; ENTERPRISE and CERES are proceeding to Mombasa to fuel; HERMES and EMERALD left Mombasa at 1530 for 10° 30'S. 56° 40'E; AUSTRALIA who was escorting Convoy W.S.5B with HAWKINS left the convoy and is proceeding towards 9° S. 54° E. at 27 knots and now forms part of Force V. DORSETSHIRE is sending Force Z to Durban unescorted and is supporting GLASGOW (All times G.M.T).

/Bombardment.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies (contd).

Bombardment of Brava.

SHROPSHIRE carried out a bombardment of targets near Brava (S.W. of Mogadishu) this morning. Bomber and fighter aircraft co-operation had been arranged.

America & West Indies.

S.S. TRELAWNEY attacked in North Atlantic.

S.S. TRELAWNEY reported being attacked this morning by a warship raider in position 47° 12'N. 40° 13'W (520 miles east of St. John's N.F). Her signals were deliberately jammed. At 1355 G.M.T. TRELAWNEY repeated her previous signal and it was again jammed. Aircraft were despatched to search, but were unable to reach the area during daylight; weather and visibility were bad. Subsequently a signal timed 1815/22 was received from an unknown merchant vessel reporting that she was being machine gunned within a few miles of the above position.

8

MOST SECRET.

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A.A. fire H.M.Ships at unseen targets.

A.M.1857/20 concur provided that A.A. Vessels in the Thames Estuary can still fire at unseen and unidentified aircraft. This is considered vital if traffic through Thames Estuary is to continue. (C. in C. Nore 1140/22.)

Your 1857/20. Concur. Presume this will not be brought into force until all aircraft are fitted with I.F.F.(C. in C. Plymouth 1306/22.)

Adty., 1857/20 - concur. (C. in C.Rosyth 1553/22.)

LEGION.

Request an exchange be arranged so that LEGION is available for C. in C. H.F., if he requires her for a special operation. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1700/22.)

Defence of U.K.

Use of P/L in event of invasion.

D.S.D.1153/22.

"Deluge".

At 1200/22. (D.C. 1202/22.)
At 2330/22. (D.C.2342/22.)

A.A. Defence of Faroes.

Your 2359/21. These guns were allocated for other urgent purposes in A.D.G.B., but C. in C. F.C, consents to their being mounted at Skaale Fiorde as temporary expedient. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1516/22, to A.C.C.S.

TALISMAN
TRIBUNE.

My 1803/15 para. C. dates of sailing of TALISMAN and TRIBUNE are to be exchanged. (F.O.(S) 0006/22., C. in C. W.A.1028/22.)

/RODNEY.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. Contd.

RODNEY. My 2052/21. Only one Sunderland now available will escort from about 1100 until 1530. (C. in C. Rosyth 0104/22, to RODNEY.)

TAKU.
TALISMAN. Your 1803/15 Part 1. Adty., 1214/15, Captain (S) 2 1008/21. TAKU and TALISMAN are to be routed through the following positions. Thence to Halifax. (C. in C. W.A. 1805/21, to F.O.(S), S.2.)

OLYMPUS. My 1130/21. Delete 4 miles and 30 min. N. and substitute 15 miles and 14 min. N. (S.5. 1031/22.)

TRIBUNE
TAKU. A. Intend to sail TRIBUNE and TAKU escorted by CUTTY SARK at 1600/24 to (position) Thence CUTTY SARK returns to Clyde. TRIBUNE and TAKU through (position) and thence as routed by C. in C. W.A. 1805/21. B. Operational control of submarines will be transferred to C. in C. A. & W.I., when they enter N.A.A.W.I. station.(Capt.(S) 2 1048/22.)

STOKE
CITY. STOKE CITY is being sailed to replace LINCOLN CITY 23/2. (A.C.O.S. 1231/22.)

AZALEA. To sail for Liverpool forthwith to be prepared to proceed on foreign service on 7/3. (C. in C. W.A. 1254/22.)

S/M's 021.
023.
SUNFISH. My 1039/21. WHITE BEAR is to R.V. with 0.21 and 0.23 at 1530/23. 0.21 and 0.23 to carry out diving of one hours duration. Position. SUNFISH will join you 1800/23 off Bell Rock for passage to Scapa.

/You are.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. Contd.

You are to make E.T.A. for SUNFISH at Scapa and make contact with Stanger Head before detaching her.(Capt. (S) 9, 1317/22 to WHITE BEAR.)

AURORA. Scapa arrivals AURORA, transports 211 and 213. (A.C.O.S. 1534/22.)

AURORA is to proceed to arrive at Thorshavn, Faroes as soon after daylight as practicable tomorrow.

2. AURORA will be carrying four Vickers Mark VIII guns to be mounted for the defence of Skaalefiord. (C. in C. H.F. 1930/22.)

Scapa departure 2130 AURORA. (A.C.O.S. 2146/22.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler lines occupied tonight, one to 3 trawlers. (A.C.O.S.1551/22.)

S/M's. Position at 0800/23 and movements for following 24 hours.(F.O.S. 1706/22,2109/22, 1007/23.)

A/S. patrol. By Trawlers WASTWATER and THIRLMERE. Details. Request air co-operation. (A.C.O.S. 1720/22.)

COLOMBIA. COLOMBIA sails Plymouth 0830/23. E.T.A. area of obstacle 1030/23. (C. in C. Plymouth 1748/22.)

A.M.C.'s of Northern Patrol. Your 1813/21. Intend A.M.C's fuel in Iceland on arrival only proceeding direct from patrol to arrive Halifax as follows: CHITRAL MALOJA AUSONIA RANPURA (dates) and thereafter at 4 and 6 day intervals.

/DERBYSHIRE.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. Contd.

A.M.C's Northern Patrol.

2. DERBYSHIRE, CIRCASSIA and CHESHIRE now refitting. Completion date uncertain. Expected to leave Clyde for Northern Patrol latter part of March and early April. (P.O.C.N.P. 2236/22.)

Operations.

Sweep for HIPPER.

Information. Enemy. Indications that HIPPER may leave Brest.

(ii) Own at 0800/22 movements of submarines were as follows:- Submarines will be informed of destroyers movements.

(iii) Object is the destruction of HIPPER if she leaves Brest.

(iv) Execution JACKAL KASHMIR and KIPLING are to pass Gate at 1600/ today, and proceed to vicinity 048° 14' N, 006°, 00' W, which is to be reached by 2200/22, if practicable. If no contact is made with the enemy, destroyers are to return to Plymouth passing through 180° Lizard Head 12 at 0800/23. C.O. of JACKAL has discretion to abandon the operation at any time if the weather is unsuitable. (v) Fighter protection code word RIVET. (vi) Destroyers acknowledge. (C. in C. Plymouth 1355/22, 1755/22.) Request. TIGRIS and PANDORA may be warned. (C. in C. Plymouth 1358/22, to Capts. (S) 2, (S) 5.

Informing PANDORA, TIGRIS. (P.O.(S) 1819/22.)

My 1355. No submarines are to be attacked unless they commit a hostile act. (C. in C. Plymouth 1858/22 to JACKAL, KASHMIR, KIPLING.

JACKAL, KASHMIR, KIPLING, sailed. (C. in C. Plymouth 1902/22.)

/Your .....

MOST SECRET.

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Sweep for HIPPER.

Your 2209/22. Arrive 180 degs. Rame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 0830/23. (C. in C. Plymouth 2328/22. to JACKAL.)

ANJA.

Admiralty's 1830/11, and SALOPIAN'S 1826/20. Finnish ANJA intercepted by SALOPIAN 20/2 in 064° 23' N, 029° 00' W, arrive Reykjavik today.

Master admitted intentions of attempting passage to Denmark Straits in order to avoid German submarines. Same ship when outward bound was brought into Reykjavik by armed guard from CILICIA last September for similar reasons and warned that he would probably be sent to Kirkwall if he offended again. In view of this, should any action be taken beyond re routing through Skapen Fiord. From experience there appears little likelihood of following any route given him but cargo and navicerts are apparently in order.(F.O.i/c Iceland 1729/22, to Adty.)

Operation N.C.

My 1409. Operation NC cancelled. (V.A. Dover 2116/22.)

British Air Activity.

Instructions for Aircraft attacking shipping.

In order to allow aircraft the maximum opportunity of attacking enemy shipping in the Channel, it is proposed to extend to them the same freedom to attack at sight by night as they now have by day inside the area defined in para. 3A of A.T. 1111/20/IX/40.

2. Whenever our own surface forces are operating inside this area, it would be necessary to arrange with A.O.C. in C. C. C. for suitable restrictions on bombing to be imposed. 3. It is intended that, as a general rule these restrictions should be confined to that portion of the area in which our forces are operating. A general ban on bombing would only be imposed if large scale operations were taking place.

/4. Request.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

4. 4. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. (H). 0059/22. to C's in C. Home.)

Your 0059/22 concur. (V.A. Dover, 1900/22.) 305. Your 0059/22 concur. (C. in C. Nore 1149/22.)

Patrols. Today. STAB., FAIR UNST. (C. in C. Rosyth 0840/22.)

Following A/S air patrol will be flown from 1030 until 2100 today, cross over patrol between 60° N, 04 50 W, 60 40 N, 6 W by Whitley A/C. (C. in C. Rosyth 0920/22.)

St. Merryn. While 801 Squadron are at St. Merryn no other Squadrons can be accommodated. Desire that 809 Squadron should go to St. Merryn about 17/3, for Armament Training. Request 801 Squadron may operate elsewhere from that date. (RANAS 1206/22.)

Patrol of Stavanger Aerodrome. In an endeavour to keep the Focke-Wolfe A/c operating from Stavanger from taking off during dark hours a patrol of one Blenheim a/c will be maintained over Stavanger Aerodromes from 0200 until half an hour before sunrise daily. Patrol will commence on 23/2. (C. in C. Rosyth 1700/22.)

A/C. not to fly outward over Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Harwich. 22/2. Detailed investigation indicated our aircraft going out of the Country over Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Harwich. All operational aircraft outward bound are to be routed at all times to avoid these places. (Air Min. 1910/22.)

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

SCOTTISH STANDARD. (bombed 21/2.)

If you have no seriously injured survivors on board do not part company with ASSURANCE and SUPERMAN until you arrive off Lough Foyle. (C. in C.W.A. 0121/22, to SCIMITAR.)

Convoy O.B.288. attacked. KINGSTON HILL, and KELIA damaged.

Following has been read; Enemy aircraft attacking even numbered O.B. convoy position 59° 40' N, 12° 40' W. course 274 speed 7 knots. (Even numbered O.B. Convoy 0900/22.)

Following ships damaged by bombing of O.B.288. (1) S.S. KINGSTON HILL, engine room flooded, will float if bulkhead (s) hold(s). 2. KELLA steering gear jammed. PICOTEE standing by these two ships in 059° 44' N, 012° 33' W. Request rescue tug. (ACHATES 1015/22.)

My 1335. No trace in War Reg. Attempted tow impossible, ship too heavy. Have taken Captain and 22 crew on board till morning. Crew will return if ship still afloat. Awaiting Tug. (PICOTEE 1755/22.)

Swansea attacked.

Severe air attack on Swansea last night. Apparently no damage in docks. No known naval casualties. Several U.X.B. in docks area. Mines laid off Mumbles. Further report will be made. (P.O.I.C. Cardiff 0940/22.)

Convoy E.N.75. attacked.

Enemy aircraft attacking odd numbered E.N. convoy USAGE in 58° 35' N, 2° 50' W. (JASON 1103/22.) Following has been read. Fighters have left for odd numbered E.N. Convoy. (Lyness W/T 1113/22.)

/WESTMINSTER.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

WESTMINSTER. — One enemy aircraft in sight approx. bearing 090 degs. approx. height 5,000 feet my position 51° 34' N,1° 9' E. (WESTMINSTER 1120/22.)

My 1120 enemy driven off to eastward. (WESTMINSTER 1122/22.)

Convoy O.B.287, attacked. — The following has been read. Enemy Aircraft attacking Convoy CURLY in 58° 0' N, 5° 55' W. (Odd numbered O.B. Convoy 1206/22.)

My 1204 aircraft dropped heavy object in level flight altitude 100 feet. Amended position 058° 00' N, 005° 45'W. (MALCOLM 1236/22.)

My 1235. Aircraft approached as for torpedo attack last ship of Aultbea portion proceeding to join O.B. 289. No hits. (MALCOLM 1258/22.)

Convoy E.N. W.N. 2 Tankers. — Fighters being sent to Convoys Odd Numbered E.N, Even numbered W.N. and 2 tankers. (Rosyth W/T 1337/22.)

A.A. fire by troops in transports. — In view of the increase in air attacks on vessels in N.W. Approaches and the fact that the aircraft used are vulnerable to attack from light machine guns, suggest that O.C.'s troops in transports, both inward and outward bound, be instructed to arrange that as many as possible of the troops on board should be kept on dock in daylight ready to open fire instantly with rifles and machine guns if attack develops while vessels are east of 22° W. If you agree Masters of transports will be informed.(A.C.N.S.(T) 1703/22. to W.O.)

Unknown Ship. — The following has been read. Following intercepted. AAAA 47 R 15 N 40 R 20 W. Heavy jamming machine gunned. (Z.X.M.A.(not known) 1815/22.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation Z.M.E.19.	Operation Z.M.E.19 completed.(PLOVER 0245/22.)
Operation G.T.	Operation G.T. intend INTREPID and IMPULSIVE leave Dartmouth at 1915/23, taking departure from Start Point at 2000 laying parallel commencing 0001/24; to arrive Nab Tower 0800/24, passing through approx. positions 180°. Start Point 10 miles at about 0300/24. If weather conditions are such that necessary speed cannot be (group omitted.) after laying intend to return to Dartmouth instead of Portsmouth at daylight. (D.20. 1815/22.)
Harwich.	Red mine detonated by 'LL' trawlers at 0300 in 51° 50.4'N,01° 34.3' E. near inside. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0924/22.) Mine detonated by S.A.Gear by EARL KITCHENER 1212/22, in 51° 50. 7'N,1° 34.6' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1623/22.)
Operation J.K.	Intend ICARUS to carry out Operation J.K. (See A.L. M/O.D. 2019/41 of 13/2,41 para. 7) tonight escorted by VANSITTART. BERKELEY and TYNEDALE. Request Air Ministry be asked to arrange bombing diversion over Havre between the hours of 2130 and 2359 to support this operation. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1107/22.) My 1107/22 sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1745/22.) Ops. 818. 22/2, Operation J.K. bombing diversion impossible. (H.Q.B.C. 2100/22.)

/Humber.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Humber.

Adty., 1854/18, and my 1043/19; in view of mining situation in Humber proposal to repair Guard Loops had been abandoned. RINGDOVE will sail for Yarmouth in F.S.18. 23/2. (F.O.Humber 1117/22.)

The following 7 mines were exploded today.(F.O. Humber 1752/22.)

Between 1930 and 2200 about 20 aircraft mine laying in Humber between Hull and Immingham and a few lower down. (F.O. Humber 2250/22.)

Fowey.

At 1600 hours Heinkel dropped two mines bearing 211° and 220° respectively about 100 yards Polruan C.G. Station. (R.N.O. Fowey 1640/22.)

Port of Fowey is closed owing to enemy mines. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1802/22.)

Sweeps.

Available ships of 5th M.S.F. are to carry out searching sweeps.
(a) From Kinnaird Head to Duncansby Head in advance of E.N.76. E.T.A. Kinnaird Head 0700/24. (b) From Duncansby Head to Kinnaird Head west side of Q.Z.S.160 and dividing line A.Z.787. Ships are to return to Aberdeen on completion of operations. (C. in C. Rosyth 1858/22.)

Iceland.

My 1430/12, 5 further British Mark XX mines located ashore as follows: All rendered safe except 1. Several other reports still unconfirmed. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 2120/22.)

/Tyne.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Tyne.

Three acoustic mines detonated today, by "A" mark 11 sweep today in approach to River Tyne. Positions.(C. in C. Rosyth 2358/22.)

Enemy Intelligence.

HIPPER.

German Naval aircraft are active in the Brest Area this morning. In view of similar activity prior to HIPPER leaving Brest, between 1st and 4th Feb., this suggests a possible further movement. (D.D.I.C. 1155/22. to C's in C. Home F.O.C.N.A, Force H.B.C.)

Various Intelligence.

N.A. Stockholm 1231/22.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

Zigzagging. Adty. message "E.L.". In future British Merchant ships sailing independently in the areas specified in A.M.S.I. 293 and Adty. Message "EF" are to zig-zag, whatever the visibility may be, both by day and night except in heavy weather. (D.T.D. 1366/22).

Tankers. Your 1717/20. Difficulty of finding a suitable ship for Commodore is appreciated but the need for expediting tanker tonnage is so great that tankers should not be diverted for this purpose except as a last resort. (D.T.D. 1433/22, to N.C.S.O. Mersey).

Coastal Convoys.

W.N.88. Position (STELLA POLARIS, 0050/22 to A.C.C.S.) Addition N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1231/22).

W.N.88 (0) Destinations (N.C.S.O. Oban, 0951/22).

2 M.V's. For Clyde. Escort. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 0954/22).

F.S.17A. Absentees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1006/22) 37 ships (1007/22) Destinations (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1654/22).

F.N.14. Sailed 0906/22, 14 ships. (N.C.S.O.Thames, 1051/22) List (1129/22) Ships joining from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1734/22 C.in C. Rosyth 2355/22).

O.B.U. 289. 1100/22, unescorted, 5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1140/22) List (1224/22).

/ E.N. 76. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

E.N.76.	1630/23, escorts, 19 ships, codes. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1143/22).
9 M.V's	C.in C. Nore 2304/20. Escorts. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1207/22).
Channel.	Night Report. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1211/22).
F.N.12 A.	To join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1504/22) List (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1645/22) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1715/22).
F.S.18.	Sailed 1400/22, 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1531/22 F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1742/22) 1 ship from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1721/22) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1739/22).
W.N.87.	Arrived 1500/22 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1532/22).
E.N.76.	VERONICA additional escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1935/22).
W.N.89.	S/M H.43 left with. (Capt. S.7, 1945/22). 1949/22, Escorts, 17 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1950/22).
F.S.19.	Sailed 2300/22, 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2341/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.

O.B.290. 0130/24/2, unescorted, 2. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0900/22).

O.B.288. Dispersal. (C.in C. W.A., 1149/22).

H.X.109. My 1820/21, deletion. (D.T.D., 1204/22) Destination MODAVIA (D.T.D., 1702/22).

H.X.106. Destinations. (D.T.D., 1207/22 1208/22, 1209/22, 1725/22) Probably reported by U-boat at 1531 (D.D.I.C. 1655/22) MONTGOMERY to join (C.in C. W.A. 1954/22).

S.L.64. Arrivals (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0615/22, N.O.I.C. Barry, 1437/22, 1459/22, N.C.S.O. Mersey 1540/22 1742/22.

O.B.287. Arrivals, ROSENBORG and ST. ROSARIO damaged by enemy a/c. (P.O.I.C. Greenock, 1640/22).

O.C.54. CORROPSIS not ready to sail with. (C.in C. W.A., 1713/22).

H.X.106. 31 hours late, 15 stragglers, ARTHUR F. CORWIN sunk, CLEA not yet reported. (D.T.D., 1719/22 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.X.107. Arrival. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1750/22).

? Not met. My p.c. and s. (WANDERER, 1630/22, 1630/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Military Convoys.

S.S. BATORY
S.S.RIMUTAKA
Escort:-
FORTH

My 2249/15, 1728/19 and 1144/21.
BATORY for Halifax. RIMUTAKA for Trinidad.
Sailing date and arrangements.
5. Fighter Protection code word RIVET.
6. Routeing signal will follow.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1401/22 to C.in C. W.A.).
My 1401/22. Route.
(D.O.D.(H) 1635/22).

S.S. CITY OF PARIS
escort:-
ARAWA.

For Bombay. Arrangements.
(D.O.D.(H) 1727/22).

S.S. KENYA
SOBIESKI

Arrived DUNEDIN, HESPERUS, GARLAND, LEGION escorting S.S.KENYA and SOBIESKI.
(F.O.I/c Greenock 2149/22.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

SVEVE. — O.B. 289 SVEVE returned to port engine trouble.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 1117/22).

Wreck. — Object appears to be small cargo ship 2 thousand tons. My position 060° 14'N. 010° 05'W.
(NORTHERN CHIEF 0945/22).
Your 0945. Endeavour to take in tow and proceed to Stornoway. If unable report.
(S.O.N.P.T. 1037/22).
Your 1037/22. Unable to tow.
(NORTHERN CHIEF 1235/22).
18 direct hits. 5 depth charges. No appreciable effect to buoyancy, light failing. Consider further expenditure of no avail request instructions.
(NORTHERN CHIEF 2000/22).

MOUNT RHODOPE. — (Greek) returned from H.X. 107 with heavy weather damage.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 1321/22).

KEILA.
KINGSTON HILL.
(O.B. 287). — 059° 58'N. 012° 22'W. KEILA returning under hand steering course and speed 130° 7 knots badly buckled amidships. W/T out of action but can receive Rugby broadcasts. KINGSTON HILL making water in engine room flooded 27 feet. Am attempting to take her in tow. Your 1228/21 part one not received.
(PICOTEE 1435/22 to C. in C. W.A).

EDOUARD VAN VLAENDEREN. — Aground in Olafs Fiord. Crew safe.
(F.O. Iceland 1901/22).

SALLY MAERSK. — Proceed with all despatch to assist SABRE towing SALLY MAERSK in 55° 33' N. 012° 38'W. steering 090° 7 knots at 1832 today.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2222/22).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

FORT RICHEPANSE.

My 1915/21/2 French FORT RICHEPANSE passengers are all reservists and families returning to French Morocco for demilitarisation. Passengers and crew all pro Vichy. Cargo 833 tons of bananas (not 1100 tons) consigned to group export and repartition at French ports and approx. 8 tons (corrupt group) empty tubes ammonia 43 bags of mails handed to censor.
(C.C.S.O. Gib. 1245/22 to Admty).

French Shipping.

Difficulty of identification. Suggested notice to Vichy.
(C.in C. Med., 1112/22 see Mediterranean).

From M.E.W. Your 1915/21. FORT RICHEPANSE and cargo to be seized at Gibraltar. Instructions being sent to Governor by Colonial Office.
(D.E.W.D. 1811/22 to C.C.S.O. Gib.)

North Atlantic.

MIRROR. Cable Repairs.

Gibraltar departure cable ship MIRROR escorted by ERIN to carry out repairs near Tarifa Point.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 0002/22).

RUBENS.

Report your present position and E.T.A. Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0231/22 to RUBENS).
Your 2005/21 and 0231/22. Now feared A/S Trawler RUBENS sank after air attack at 1428/13 G.M.T. in position signalled as 48° 50'N., 14° 20'W. Can SCARBOROUGH or GENTIAN give any information?
(D.A.S.W. 1832/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

DAGMAR I (in H.G.53, air attack 9/2).

Your 1824/21 No. 48 hours search by tugs from Funchal and search by Sunderland, fruitless. Search abandoned.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0957/22 to Admty).

TUNA H.G.54.

At 0800/23 TUNA with Convoy H.G54.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1040/22).

Destroyers to R/V with Force H.

Gibraltar departures 22/2 FORESIGHT, FOXHOUND, FORTUNE, FIREDRAKE in accordance with F.O.C.N.A's 1304/20.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1122/22).
FORESIGHT, FOXHOUND, FIREDRAKE, FORTUNE sailed 1100/23 to position 037° 00'N., 012° 00'W. routed through 035° 30'N., 009° 00'W speed 14 knots, (corrupt group) escorting French P.L.M.13 and LORIENT to Gibraltar Straits 1200/23 035° (?55') N., 008° 30' W 090° 7 knots.
FORESIGHT will exercise searchlight and star shell in approximate position 035°(? 09 35') N 008° 30'W after dark tonight.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1710/22 to WRESTLER, MARSDALE).
My 1304/20. Amend R/V to 037° 00'N., 012° 00'W at 1200A 23/2 and there await further instructions from F.O. Force H. Pass through position 035° 30'N., 009° 00'W.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1748/22 to FORESIGHT).

REGISTAN defect.

F.O.C.N.A. 1050/21. REGISTAN has a defect which seriously affects fighting efficiency including inability to train after 6" gun. Intend to take in hand forthwith, estimated time to complete seven days.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1228/22 to Admty).

EXETER suspicious vessel.

My 1658/19 Captain of EXETER states suspicious vessel was motor tanker with funnel aft sighted stopped 150 miles west of Azores 1430/15 then steered south.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1251/22 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

RESOLUTION. My 1220/19. Intend to sail RESOLUTION escorted by JERSEY, JUPITER, DUNCAN, VELOX p.m./23, routed in accordance with 1206/3 from Admiralty to make R/V (position) at 1100Z one - l 27/2. Request DUNCAN and VELOX be relieved in this position. Estimated speed of advance from position 042° 33' 017° 15' 10 knots. E.T.A. Nab. (F.O.C.N.A. 1252/22 to C.in C. W.A.)

Force H, Search for HIPPER. Admty. 1155/22. Am proceeding from position 033° 20'N., 020° 26'W on course 030° at 17 knots, to carry out air search on 24/2 should ADMIRAL HIPPER leave tonight. Request dawn reconnaissance of Brest and air reconnaissance to S.E. from U.K.

(iii) As only 40% fuel remaining 0800/23 search must probably be limited to one reconnaissance 140 miles all round from position about 300 miles West of Finisterre.

(iv) F.O.C.N.A. requested to order destroyer to be in position 037° 00'N., 012° 00'W., at 1200A tomorrow and await further instructions.
(S.O. Force H, 1430A/22 to Admty, F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1430/22. Following arrenged:

(a) Cross over patrol between 48° 44'N., 06° 52'W and 46° 36'N., 05° 58'W from 2200/22 to 0800/23. (b) Dawn reconnaissance and P.R.U. of Brest 23/2. (c) Parallel search, centre line 47° 30'N., 09° 55'W. to 45° 20'N., 07° 35'W from 0800/23 until about 1600.
(D.C. 2323/22 to S.O. Force H).

Air Report. Daily Summaries Operations.
(200 Group 1700/22).

S.L.S.64. (raider attack 12/2.) Admiralty 1940/21 and 2125/21 and my 1917/19 and 1631/21. (a) British ship VOLTURNO (b) British ship CLUNEPARK (c) British ship BLAIRATHOLL (d) Greek ship ANNA MAZARAKI (e) British ship MARGO (f) Greek ship POLYKTOR Makeshift lifeboat and raft accommodation is being provided and every endeavour is being made to sail all ships except (f) to join convoy H.G.54 repairs to (e) being well advanced.
(N.C.S.O. Funchal 1805/22 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

CAVINA
4/ MASVERNIAN
RENOWN
4/ ARK ROYAL.

CAVINA proceeding from Q.3 to Fayal E.T.A. 26/2. MASVERNIAN E.T.A. Q.3. and disposition 3 23/2 from U.K. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL position course and speed 033° 20'N., 020° 26'W. 030° 17 knots at 1400 proceeding towards position 300 miles West Finisterre.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2200/22 to N.A.Station).

South Atlantic.

S.L.66.

L.A. CHRISTENSEN (Norg.) returned from S.L.66 with engine trouble. OAKDENE was ordered back from S.L.66 by escort as being unable to keep up necessary speed, she sailed independently on 20/2. ENGLISH TRADER sailed 20/2.
(M.S.R. Freetown 0908/22).

CORNWALL.

Admty's 2300/8 and N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 0743/21/2 requesting urgency of arrival in U.K. Should like CORNWALL to spend a few days in the area near L.36 and K 35 on way where there have been several D/F indications of presence of raiders recently and where no Warship has been for some time.
(C.in C. S.A. 1115/22/N to Admty).

CHATEAUROUX
BENVENUE

Your 1929/20. Ministry of Shipping and Elder Dempster agree it is not possible after loading to condition ship to make convoy speed. Arrangements made for repairs to two 90 mm. L.A. guns carried and supply of ammunition for these, also to supply a machine gun and ammunition for H.A. fire. Propose to sail ship independently to Belfast for degaussing.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1122/22 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CLAN MACTAVISH. — Overdue shipping cancel my 1115/18. CLAN MACTAVISH arrived Capetown.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1145B/22 to Admty).

HAMLA. — Your 1559/21. Master of HAMLA declared speed 9¼ knots and was therefore included in faster portion of convoy. Amended standard route which he should have followed after separation from convoy was slightly longer than amended convoys route. On previous occasion he had reported speed reduced to 8 knots owing to fouled bottom, and was included in S.L.S.53.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1159/22, to Admty).

CYCLAMEN CUBA. — My 1500/20 to Takoradi only. CYCLAMEN and transport CUBA left Lagos 1300/22. Will make every effort to arrive Takoradi before sunset 23/2. Imperative to leave without delay 24/2 in order to arrive Freetown (date).
Dir. of Nigerian Marine, Lagos, 1300/22 to S.S.T.O. Takoradi).

MILFORD. — Departure 1300/23 MILFORD in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1213/21. R/V with FORESIGHT.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1305/22 to Admty, MALAYA, etc.)

L.L. Sweepers. — Admiralty 1722/11/2. Provided gear arrives by date specified "LL" Sweepers GOS SIX, HECTOR SEVEN, NEBB and KAI will complete as follows: (4) Presume ratings indicated in my 0917/19/12 to Admiralty together with all officers will be despatched to arrive by these dates.
(S.N.O. Simonstown 1316B/22 to Admty).

Dispositions. — Weekly Statement 22/2.
(C.in C. S.A. 1325N/22). Original in Lion Copy only.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

L.L.Sweepers. N.L.O Durban's 1130/20. I consider results of survey of hulls machinery should be awaited before deciding to fit out vessels.
(S.N.O. Simonstown, 1314B/22 to Admty).
Your 1130/20. Approved to take up NOBLE NORA, TRANSVALIA, EGELAND and JOHN WILLIAMSON for conversion forthwith.
"LL" equipment will be fitted at Alexandria.
Instructions re FAIR MAGDA, SILESIA and ODD will be sent on receipt of report of survey.
(D.M.S. 1355/22 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

Enemy Unit. D/F bearings at 0357/22 indicate surface unit within 300 miles of 020° S 010° W. Reliability 40 per cent. Possible this is a bad fix of unit referred to in my 1959/21.
(C.in C. S.A. 1351N/22 to S.A. Station).

QUEEN OF BERMUDA whale catchers. Please pass following to C.in C. S.A. repeated R.A.S.A.D. (begins) Ref: 1926/15 from Admty. Suggest one of OLE WEGGER's catches be sent south with THORSHAMMER: in order that QUEEN OF BERMUDA may embark necessary staff in that catcher and send her to Deception Island to destroy oil tanks etc.
(QUEEN OF BERMUDA, 1827Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Falkland Is.)

W.S.6.
FAULKNOR
FORESTER. Departure1800/22. FAULKNOR and FORESTER in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1213/21.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1847N/22).

S.L.S.66.
KENYA. To strengthen escort of S.L.66 KENYA is to join convoy as far south as practicable as arranged by F.O.C.N.A. and provide escort as far as the R/V for inward A/S escort, proceeding thence to Plymouth.
(D.O.D.(F) 1914/22 to C.in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

S.L.67.
ARETHUSA.

A.T. 1727/16. ARETHUSA is to take the place of KENYA as homeward escort for S.L.67.
(D.O.D.(F) 1915/22 to C.in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.)

CORNWALL.

To be prepared for sea as rapidly as possible.
(D.O.D.(F) 2244/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

Mining of Suez Canal.

Four enemy aircraft over canal between 0400 and 0600/22. Some mines were laid.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 0913/22 to Admty etc).

B.N.F.2.

Convoy B.N.F.2. arrived Suez 22/2.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1037/22).

French Shipping.

Your 2021/20. UNIQUE reports having sighted 38 ships near Kerkenah Bank between 11th and 16th Feb., of which 27 were merchant ships 8 probably and 2 definitely French. All were darkened.

2. In view of difficulty of identification and consequent danger to French Ships suggest Vichy be instructed that we cannot guarantee safety of any merchant vessel outside French Territorial Waters in area between Cape Bon and Tripoli, unless we have previously been informed of her movements.

3. Marks of identification whether by day or by night cannot be relied upon owing to possibility of their being communicated, and certainty of their being seen and copied by the Italians.

4. It is for consideration to inform Vichy Govn., owing to persistent use by Italians, sanctity of French Territorial waters South of 035° 46'N., cannot in itself be regarded as a safe-guard for unidentified ships of whose movements we have not been informed.
(C.in C. Med., 1112/22 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREION STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Minesweeping.

Request information as to what width of channel can be assumed cleared by S.A.gear fitted in external box by one vessel also distance ahead of ship explosion is likely to occur.
(R.A.Alexandria, 1311/22 to Admty).
Operational Summary No.257. Up to 1200 22/2/1941. Night 21/22. 3 unidentified enemy aircraft dropped 3 bombs in Suez Canal zone between Port Said and Ismailia and 1 bomb near Shallufa. 1 mine dropped and exploded reservoir.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1341/22).

My 0913/22. Considered 3 planes flew over canal and 4 mines were laid. One exploded on landing and a 2nd has been exploded by LL sweep, Three barrage balloons were in position and it was observed attacking planes swerved off on reaching their vicinity. Of mines laid on 18/2 two exploded on landing and one has been exploded by skid.
(S.B.N.O. Suez 1923/22 to Admty).

East Indies.

Enemy Shipping.

21 Italian and 9 German merchant ships believed to be at Massawa, 4 Italian and 1 German at Assab. (D.S.536).

CAPETOWN.

As soon as ready CAPETOWN is to proceed 15 knots towards Seychelles.
(C.in C. E.I. 0234Z/22 to Force V).

U.S.9.

Convoy U.S.9. arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0431Z/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

CANBERRA. — Colombo departure 22/2, 0430Z, H.M.A.S. CANBERRA.
(S.O.(I) Colombo 0500/22).

HERMES, EMERALD, search for raider. — HERMES and EMERALD are to sail in company as soon as ready and proceed 18 knots towards Agalega Island (010° 30'S., 056° 30') searching for raider en route.
(C.in C. E.I. 0540Z/22 to Force V).

KANIMBLA orders for patrol. — KANIMBLA is to leave Durban as soon as possible and proceed to position (a) (? 030°) S., 035° E, then patrol between positions (a) and (b) 022° 30'S., 040° E, speed 15 knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 0550Z/22).

KANIMBLA sailed in accordance with C.in C.E.I 0550Z/22.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1149Z/22).

RANCHI. — To proceed at speed of 15 knots towards position 015° S., 042° 20'E.
(C.in C. E.I. 0552Z/22 to RANCHI).

RANTAU PANDJANG, raider report. — My 1746/21. Dutch ship RANTAU PANDJANG made an R distress message at 0515 G.M.T. 22nd in position 008° 24'S., 051° 35'E. Position GLASGOW at this time was approx. 006° 50'S., 049° 50'. GLASGOW has one serviceable aircraft.
(C.in C. E.I. 0610Z/22 to E.I. Sqdn.)
RANTAU PANDJANG 2542 tons, Port Elizabeth and Durban for Sabang, Sumatra. Position about 280 E.S.E. of CANADIAN CRUISER's position. (D.S.536).

Special Movements Forecast. — Week ending 28/2.
(C.in C. E.I. 0612/22).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Convoy.

Convoy WS.5.B.X. arrived.
(N.C.S.O. East Africa, 0615Z/22).

B.S.16.

Departures 0415Z FLAMINGO and 0615Z KINGSTON to join B.S.16.
(N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 0742Z/21).

Conditions at Kismayu.

Reported as follows:

(1) Mtanga Island. 3 guns Armstrong appear serviceable with some ammunition. 2 magazines blown, 2 others appear serviceable. Water available in small quantities from shallow wells. Small concrete jetty. (2) Kismayu Island. All guns and magazines demolished. Oil fuel pumping house, pipe line over water and large underground tank are apparently in good order. All oil has been let out, many spare parts available considered all could be put in order in 3 weeks.
(C.in C. E.I. 0746Z/22 to Admty).

KANDAHAR CAPETOWN EMERALD.

Mombasa left 22/2. 0215 G.M.T. KANDAHAR and 0730 G.M.T. CAPETOWN. Arrived 0515 G.M.T. EMERALD.
(N.O.I.C. East Africa 0752Z/22 to C.in C. E.I

Pocket Battleship sighted by GLASGOW.

Pocket Battleship sighted in position 008° 30'S., 051° 35'E. at 0818Z course 120° 18 knots. My P.C. and S. are 007° 56'S., 051° 26'E. 120° 24 knots. In pursuit with aircraft shadowing. Intend to attack by night and shadow by day.
(GLASGOW 0944Z/22 to C.in C. E.I. Force V).

Troop Transport.

Your 2342/20. Can provide DILWARA, INDRAPOERA with U.S.9. NEURALIA required at Bombay.
(S.S.T.O. India 1013Z/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

LEANDER. My 0700/16 on completing with fuel at Bombay LEANDER is to proceed 15 knots to position equator 154° E. Object is protection of (? shipping).
(C.in C. E.I. 1200Z/21 to LEANDER).

CAPETOWN.
KANDAHAR. My 0716/17. CAPETOWN to escort U.S.9½ (date) KANDAHAR to boiler clean at Mombasa on relief.
(C.in C. E.I. 1358Z/22) See Operations Volume.

CANADIAN CRUISER.
(Sunk 21/2.) German official communique this morning claims that German naval forces sank British steamer CANADIAN CRUISER in the Indian Ocean.
(D.D.I.C. 1447/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

Force V Operations Against raider. GLASGOW 0944/22. Ships on East Indies Station taking part in operation against this pocket battleship are known as Force V.

Approximate dispositions of Force V are (a) GLASGOW, shadowing. Attacking only should favourable opportunity occur. (b) CANBERRA proceeding from position 005° 10'N., 073° 40' at 1600 to position 006°S., 060° at 25 knots. (c) SHROPSHIRE from Brava at 1300 to 090° (?009°) S., 054° at about 26 knots. (d) CAPETOWN from 004° S., 043° 20' at 1600 to Seychelles at 18 knots. (e) ENTERPRISE proceeding to fuel Mombasa due a.m./23. (f) CERES due Mombasa a.m./23 ready for service a.m./25. (g) HERMES and EMERALD from Mombasa at 1515 to 010° 30'S., 056° 40' at 20 knots.
All times are (? G.M.T.) 22/2.
1500Z/22.

GLASGOW's 0944/22. AUSTRALIA may be used to hunt Raider leaving W.S.5.B. with HAWKINS only.
(V.C.N.S. 1630/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

SAVOIA,
ADRIA,
ERMINIA
MAZELLI.
MANON.

My 1852/17, para.2. (re prize proceedings at Bombay or Mombasa and delay of ratings return to U.K.) It would be preferable for prize proceedings to be continued at Mombasa as in my 1627/15.
(D.T.D. 1705/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

DORSETSHIRE.

GLASGOW's 0944/22. If delay to force Z can possibly be accepted. (? suggest) DORSETSHIRE proceed forthwith at best speed to occupy area between south Madagascar and Mauritius, Force Z proceeding direct to Durban to await (?onward) escort.
(C.in C. E.I. 1728Z/22 to Admty).

GLASGOW 0944Z/22. Suggest DORSETSHIRE send force Z to Durban and proceed to position to meet any move to southward and support GLASGOW as directed by C.in C. E.I.
(C.in C. S.A. 1729N/22 to Admty). 1729/22 repeated to N.O.I.C. Simonstown for information.
(C.in C. S.A. 2050/22).
Act as in C.in C. South Atlantic 1729N/22.
It can be accepted that Force Z will proceed to Durban unescorted.
(V.C.N.S. 2200/22 to DORSETSHIRE).
Take DORSETSHIRE under your orders.
(V.C.N.S. 2236/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

GLASGOW.
lost touch.
AUSTRALIA
in Force V.

My 1500/22. GLASGOW aircraft lost touch (probably after refuelling) due to reduced visibility. Area to Eastward and Northward was covered by subsequent search. GLASGOW had 60% fuel remaining at 1400Z/22.
Conditions suitable for enemy to fuel at sea.
AUSTRALIA proceeded from position Equator 047 E., at 1600Z/22 towards 009° S., 054° at 27 knots and is now in Force V.
Consideration being given to using proceedings given in my 1428/7, para. one (e) clause (i) to check raiders escape to the Southward.
(C.in C. E.I. 1804Z/22 to Admty). (N.B. see 1940Z/22).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

My 1804/22. A Bogus distress message will b initiated by Mauritius W/T Station at 0230Z/23. Ship's name used will be CITY OF AUCKLAND now at Colombo. Position 021° 28'S., 052° 10'E will be used. Message as made by Mauritius will be passed by L/T to Admiralty and N.O.I.C. Simonstown by C.in C. East Indies, prefixed X 529. N.O.I.C. Simonstown is requested to warn N.O.I.C. Durban. East Indies Station Authorities have been informed.
(C.in C. E.I. 1940Z/22 to Admty).

Convoy S.W.5.A.

My 0947/17 RANGITIKI and ANSELM unable to sail S.W.5.A. owing to engine trouble. Following ships S.W.5.A. will carry Personnel ex Egypt ELIZABETH(VILLE) Military ?Mombasa 20, U.K. 20, 100 R.N. U.K. 140 CITY OF LONDON, CITY OF CANTERBURY, R.A.F. 250 each.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1827/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

KANDAHAR
EMERALD
HERMES.

Mombasa arrived 22/2 0655 G.M.T. KANDAHAR.
Mombasa left 22/2 1330 G.M.T. EMERALD
H.M.S. HERMES.
(N.O.I.C. E.Africa 1920Z/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

LEANDER.

(?Cancel) my 1200/21. LEANDER is to leave Marmagoa at dusk 23/2 and proceed to Colombo arriving 0230Z/25.
(C.in C. E.I. 1942Z/22 to LEANDER).

China.

VERA.

Cancel my 0759/17. VERA arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Singapore 0203/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

TRELAWNEY attacked by raider.

S.S. TRELAWNEY (British, 4689 tons) being fired on by warship raider 1325Z, position 047° 12'N. 048° 13'W. Three aircraft diverted to search out and attack. (C.O.A.C., Halifax 1019/22 to C. in C. A.W.I) (Note; see following signal for position).
1325 G.M.T. S.S.S TRELAWNEY sent out RRRR position 4712N 40.13 W. being fired on by warship. Cape Race reports deliberate jamming of this signal. Three aircraft which were already on search for missing aircraft have been diverted to search out and attack enemy warship.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1126/22 to Admty, C. in C. A.W.I).
C.O.A.C. Halifax 1019/22. Use your discretion whether to send NEWARK and WELLS to co-operate with aircraft.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1202/22 to F.O. 3.B.S)
My 1126/22. Cape Race reports TRELAWNEY repeated previous signal at 1355 GMT. very approximate bearing 87 1/2 degrees same interference series of short dashes made by powerful quench gap.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1216/22 to Admty).
My 1019/22. Aircraft unable to reach area during daylight. Weather and visibility unfavourable.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1552/22 to C. in C.A.W.I).
Your 1202/22. As NEWARK is unserviceable and weather forecasts unfavourable considered it undesirable to send WELLS alone.
(F.O.3 B.S. 1630/22 to C.in C. A.W.I).
My 1126/22. Resolution Island reports receiving RRRR messages over period 1321 to 1605G.M.T. First two messages received through deliberate attempts at jamming. All later MSGS completely jammed both by spark and M C W sometimes simultaneous. As bearings were identical this may be two transmitters on same vessel. Bearings obtained (details).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1754/22 to Admty C. in C. A.W.I).

/H.X. 110.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

H.X. 110.
S.C. 23.
stragglers.

My 1349/13. Were instructions in para 2. given to ships of H.H. 110?
(D.T.D. 1310/22 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda).
My 1349/13. Were instructions in paragraph 2 given to ships of H.X. 110 and S.C. 23?
(D.T.D. 1311/22 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

Trinidad defences.

Your 1602/8. Approved to disclose position of anti-submarine fixed defences at Trinidad, under seal of secrecy, to Naval or Military Officers of United States already there.
(Head of M. 1553/22 to C. in C. A.W.I).

Examination of mails.

Your 1002/25/1. (Re examination of mail from Portuguese and Spanish ships).
So far these ships have all had Navicerts so have been exempt from call at Bermuda. Enquiries being made at Washington whether any mails have in fact been landed from them. If you have any evidence of this please report details.
(D.E.W.D. 1732/22 to C. in C. A.W.I).

Shipping.

Your 1217/20. Concur in reintroduction up to 35° W. except that procedure is not to be used if surface raider is believed to be in North Atlantic.
(D.T.D. 1737/22 to R.A.3).

SEVERN
S.C. 22.

Re. 1752/17 from C. in C. A.W.I. just received. SEVERN was ordered to leave convoy S.C. 22 before dark 21/2 or in 25°W. whichever was earlier and is returning to Halifax by shortest route south of convoy routes.
(B.S.3 1923/22 to Admty).

New Zealand.

SKAGERAK.
KING LUD.

SKAGERAK refloated. Surveyor reports ship dry and seaworthy. KING LUD refloated but survey not yet made.
(Customs, Suva 0300Z/22 to S.O.I. Wellington N.Z).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ATLAS.
SAVONA.
BELLONA.

21/2 departures ATLAS Lisbon SAVONA for Marseilles arrivals BELLONA. (Valencia 1520/22).

TANNENFELS.

See Italian Merchant Ships.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PASUBIO.

Arrived at Susak 19/2 from Trapani, Sicily. (D.S. 536).

METEOR.

Tanker, left Cagliari 19/2 for Tripoli, believed loaded with aviation spirit. (D.S. 536).

INTEGRITAS.
CARSO.
MARGHERA.
DURMITOR.
DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI.
SOMALIA.

315. * My 1148/21 Fourth ship now identified as INTEGRITAS.
Condition of ships as follows:-

INTEGRITAS		Poor condition awash
CARSO		Excellent condition flooded aft
MARGHERA		Fair condition awash.
DURMITOR	Wugo Slav	Good condition afloat.

Considered that all ships could be salved.

Two lighters are at present being used and some others may be made serviceable.

My 1026/17. Two ships unaccounted for, therefore, would be-certainly DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI and either YAMAYURI MARU or SOMALIA probably latter. I consider that MONCALIERI was never there.

Extract of UCKERMARK prisoner states that TANNENFELS sailed 1730/30.
(C. in C. E.I. 07542/22).
* Re Scuttled Ships.

MOST SECRET.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SCOTTISH STANDARD (Bombed 21/2, torpedoed 22/2).

My 1910. After R/V with NORTHERN SPRAY proceed in company to assistance of SCOTTISH STANDARD (British Tanker 6,999 tons) in position 59° 18'N. 16° 12'W. at 0930/21. MONTGOMERY is standing by.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0015/22 to ST. OLAVES, THAMES).
SCOTTISH STANDARD torpedoed twice at 1450Z, sinking slowly in position 131 59°N., 17°W.
(MONTGOMERY 1707/22 to C. in C. W.A).
Correct 1707/22 re torpedoing of SCOTTISH STANDARD to read T.O.O. 1500/22.
(MONTGOMERY, No T.O.O./22).
My 0015/22. SCOTTISH STANDARD has sunk. Proceed forthwith in position 59° 58'N., 12° 22'W. at 1435 today. PICOTTEE standing by. NORTHERN SPRAY acknowledge.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1858/22 to THAMES, ST. OLAVES, NORTHERN SPRAY).

BLACK OSPREY. (torpedoed 18/2).

Eleven survivors from BLACK OSPREY torpedoed and sunk in Atlantic on Tuesday 18/2 have been landed at Barry from S.S. MOSDALE.
(N.O.I.C. Barry 1330/22, to Admty).

Submarines Reported.

1531.

Convoy H.X. 108 was probably sighted and reported by U Boat at 1531/22.
(D.D.I.C. 1655/22 to MAYFLOWER, SNOWBERRY).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

German.
One to northward of Shetlands probably homeward bound.
One 60° - 61° N. 15° - 17° W.
One 60 miles of 58° N. 18° 30'W.
One 60 miles of 56° 30' N. 20° 30'W.
One 90 miles of 53° 30'N. 18° 30'W.
One 90 miles of 53° N. 23° W.
One about 49° N. possibly about 27° W. en route Lorient.
One about 47° N. 6° W. en route Lorient.

Italian.
2 in North Western Approaches may be between 54° N. and 58° N.E. of 17° W.
2 in Bay of Biscay 46° - 47° 30'N. 6° - 9° W. probably patrolling.
3 others at sea.
(D.D.I.C. 1307/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1015. Have dropped 2 (two) patterns of 14 on possible contact in position 056° 19'N. 007° 59'W. and am now searching with PIORUN till nightfall unless otherwise required.
(HURRICANE, 1015/22 to C. in C. W.A).

1550. Have attacked firm contact 6 depth charges no evidence of destruction, contact now lost searching position 131 59° N., 17° W.
(MONTGOMERY, 1550Z/22 to A.C.W.A).
Your 1550/22 and my 1954/22. Continue hunt until daylight and then rejoin Convoy unless otherwise ordered.
(C. in C. W.A. 2007/22 to MONTGOMERY).

1630. Attacking submarine 59.18 N., 14.32 W.
(PERIWINKLE, 1630/22 to Portrush).
WITCH is proceeding with despatch to assist PERIWINKLE with hunt.
(WANDERER 1845/22 to C. in C. W.A).

Unless in contact with 'U' Boat proceed forthwith and endeavour to locate Convoy.
(C. in C. W.A. 2159/22 to WITCH, MONTGOMERY, PERIWINKLE).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

HIPPER. Preliminary reports of photographic R.C. of Brest this morning show the HIPPER class cruiser still in dry dock. The dock is dry. JACKAL, KIPLING and KASHMIR returned to Plymouth this morning.

British Air Activity.

Wellingtons last night attacked the HIPPER class cruiser in Brest.
An attempt to bomb the cruiser this evening failed owing to the weather.
Specially equipped Whitley aircraft carried out an A/S patrol of 60 miles radius with centre 300 miles west of Cape Wrath from 1100 to dusk today.

Enemy Air Activity.

No attacks on shipping are reported today.
CAMERON, bombed and sunk at Portsmouth on 5/12, was successfully refloated today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation G.T. ICARUS escorted by 3 destroyers sailed this morning from Portsmouth to lay mines off Havre. Bomber Command were asked to provide a bombing diversion, but were unable to do so.

Minefield off Iceland. R.A. (M) considers he has established the cause of the trouble recently experienced.

The Tyne was opened at 1500 today after some mines had been detonated.

Swansea is still closed, as many mines appear to have been laid in the Approach Channel. Sweeping operations are impeded as some sweepers are in South Dock, the gates of which were damaged by air attack recently and cannot be opened at present. Five mines have been exploded, and S/A Trawlers ERIMO and INVERFORTH were seriously damaged by one explosion and S/A Trawler TENAÑA slightly damaged.

S.S. SHOAL FISHER was sunk by a mine this morning off Falmouth.

Mines were exploded off Spurn Point today. The Humber will no longer be closed at night.

Tees and Hartlepool were closed this evening. Blyth is open.

Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary and off Liverpool.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Operations against Vichy French.

S.S. P.L.M. 13 and LORIENT (intercepted by MARSDALE 18/2) arrived at Gibraltar this morning under armed guard.
Information has been received that in consequence of our capture of French merchant ships the French intend to use Allied ships held at Dakar and Casablanca.

North Atlantic.

RESOLUTION left for U.K. today.

South Atlantic.

CLEMATIS today attacked a contact in 11° 56' N. 17° 51' W.

Mediterranean.

Operation "BAR 2"

This operation is now in progress (attack on Casteloritzo Island)

TERROR damaged.

TERROR was bombed off Derna this evening and received further damage (see 24/2)

Enemy aircraft attacked Tobruk at dawn today, but no damage was caused.
C.in C. Med. reports that at 0630/19 9 aircraft attacked COVENTRY, VOYAGER, and corvettes off Benghazi, but caused no damage.

/ Mining of Suez Canal.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.2.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Mining of Suez Canal. A tug towing a skid was slightly damaged by the explosion of a mine in the Suez Canal today. Progress in clearing the Canal is disappointing.

Operation M.C.S. C.in C. Med. reports that this operation was completed successfully. CLAN MACAULAY was bombed, one bomb passing through her funnel. Other attacking aircraft formations were evidently searching for the convoy or battle fleet but failed to locate them, passing close astern.

Libyan bases. It has been necessary to withdraw all ships from Benghasi owing to inadequacy of A.A. and lack of fighter protection which results in German aircraft being very little hampered on the coast of Cyrenaica. 5 or 6 a/c have been shot down, including one torpedo aircraft by PEONY. The Army is now being supplied by land from Tobruk.

East Indies.

Search for pocket battleship. CERES and ENTERPRISE arrived at Mombasa at 0455 G.M.T. today.

Fresh instructions were today issued to Force V and SHROPSHIRE.
EMERALD and HERMES, supported by SHROPSHIRE one to sweep to the S.E., passing 100 miles north of Madagascar. AUSTRALIA is to sweep at 27 knots towards Mauritius from south of the Seychelles. GLASGOW is to search up to 250 miles to the eastward of Madagascar. CAPETOWN is to patrol to the north eastward of the Seychelles.

DORSETSHIRE is to return to Force Z; the latter is not to enter Durban.

/ It is reported ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.2.41.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies. (Contd.)

It is reported that 250 British seamen recently landed at Mogadishu are in camp at Mersa.

The Admiralty propose that merchant shipping should be routed closer to the East African coast, as raiders in the Indian Ocean have so far abstained from operations near coastal waters.

Bombardment of Brava. H.M. Ships bombarded Brava today. A Glenn Martin co-operated.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Fire at Unseen Targets.

Admiralty 1857/20. Concur that fire at unseen targets in Home waters be restricted to ships fitted with R D/F which responds to I.F.F.

2. I do not agree with the suggestion that the nature of such fire should be restricted to standard barrage. This greatly hampers protection of convoys, puts ships at serious disadvantage because of the rapid rate of change of bearing usually associated with short range, and checks development of any more efficient procedure.
(C. in C. H.F. 0034/23).

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/23 (D.C. 1154/23)
At 2330/23 (D.C. 2359/23).

Scapa.

Progress Report - 23rd February, 1941.
(R.A. Scapa 2015/23).

Movements.

RODNEY.
MATABELE.
ESKIMO.
TARTAR.

Arrived Scapa.
(A.C.O.S. 0444/23).

CHURCHILL.

Your 0110. It is of vital importance that you rendezvous with T.C.9 in accordance with my 1125/23 and the amount of assistance rendered to MANISTEE must be dependent on this.
(C. in C. W.A. 0656/23 to CHURCHILL).

STURGEON.

Left Methil 0700 for Blyth.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0738/23).
STURGEON estimated off Holy Isle 1200 proceeding Blyth. SUNFISH leaves Blyth about 1700 northward.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1400/23 to ERIDGE, MENDIP, COREOPSIS).
Do not proceed inside 20 fathom line until further orders.
(S.6. 1155/23 to STURGEON).
Expect to meet ERIDGE, COREOPSIS, and MENDIP proceeding from Tyne northwards.
(S.6. 1422/23 to STURGEON);

/AURORA.....

MOST SECRET.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

AURORA. — Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 0946/23).

KELVIN. — It will be impossible for men of war to use D/G range in Humber for at least a week. Propose sailing KELVIN at 1600 to-day Sunday to Scapa for ranging there on passage to Plymouth.
(F.O. Humber 0959/23).
Your 0959. Approved. (D.O.D.H. 1542/23 to F.O. Humber).

SUNFISH. — Capt (S) 6 2245/22. My 1317/22. SUNFISH will not now join you. On completion of Submarine Dive proceed execution previous orders.
(S.9. 1009/23 to WHITE BEAR).

OLYMPUS. — Cancel my 1031/22.
(S.5. 1235/23).

RESOLUTION.
JACKAL.
KASHMIR.
KIPLING. — Your 1252/22. JACKAL, KASHMIR, KIPLING will relieve DUNCAN and VELOX in (position) at 1100 sailing from Plymouth p.m./24th Z - 1/27.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1334/23).

O.21.
O.23. — Dutch submarine O 21 and O 23 sailed in accordance with my 1031/21. Submarine will call Holyhead on passage. Probable time of arrival on North Atlantic Station, O 23 1900 B.S.T. 5/3, 021 1600 B.S.T. 6/3.
(S.9. 1401/23).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler lines tonight. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1526/23).

SURCOUF.
THUNDERBOLT. — My 1810/19. E.T.A. SURCOUF about 3/3. THUNDERBOLT about 5/3. No Q.J.A. Messages held.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1531/23 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

/Submarines.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

Submarines	Positions at 0800/24 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1546/23 and 1908/23).
BRILLIANT. SUNFISH. MOLLUSC.	My 1407/23. Amend rendezvous to read "Off 22 Buoy at 0200/24". (C. in C. H.F. 1637/23 to BRILLIANT). My 1510/23. Amend as follows: BRILLIANT to R/V with MOLLUSC and SUNFISH at number 22 buoy at 0200/24. MOLLUSC then to return to Blyth. (C. in C. Rosyth 1742/23).
SKEENA. ST. LAURENT.	Sailed as by C. in C. W.A. 1911/21 routed as in C. in C. W.A. 1015/23. E.T.A. Halifax 4/3. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1903/23).
5th M/S F.	Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2230/23).
9th M/S F.	My 2003/10 para 5. 9th M.S.F. should not be sailed until receipt of further instructions. (D.M.S. 2327/23 to A.C.O.S).

Operations.

Operation Q.A.	Operation QA will be carried out tonight from 2030 to 2230. (C. in C. Nore 0951/23). Operation Q.A. to-night 2030 to 2230. (C. in C. Nore 0959/23 to VORTIGERN, WOOLSTON). Operation QA is cancelled for tonight Sunday. (C. in C. Nore 1936/23).
Search for HIPPER-class Cruiser.	Arrived 0900 JACKAL KIPLING KASHMIR. (C. in C. Plymouth 1010/23)
Patrol off Berry Head.	My 0800/24. Western Channel night report add two M.L's Dartmouth 1830/23 to patrol in vicinity 135 Berry Head 15. (C. in C. Plymouth 1628/23).
Operation N.C.	Add to my 1306. Operation N.C. will be carried out Zero Hour 2015. (V.A. Dover 1801/23).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Following patrols are being flown to-day:
STAND
UNST.
IP - OP flown PM only.

Cross over between 60° N. 4° 50'W. and 60° 40'N. 6° W. from 0900 until 2100. (C. in C. Rosyth 0816/23).

Brest dawn reconnaissance unsuccessful owing to weather conditions. Further attempt being made.
(D.D.I.C. 1032/23 to F.O. Force H).

My 0816/23 cross over patrol has now been cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 1450/23).

Patrol EUSTACE.

My 0002/1/1 and my 1016/13/2. Add an A/S Patrol to be flown by a Whitby A/C by day or by night periodically through the following positions. (C. in C. Rosyth 2255/23) See Summaries Folder.

Own A/C fired on at Lowestoft.

Admiralty's 2347/14/2. Ships in Harwich Sub Command which might possibly have been concerned neither took part in or saw anything of incident. 1600 Ends.
(C. in C. Nore 1917/23).

Enemy Air Activity.

BARON RENFREW. (Bombed 28/1).

Proceed as soon as ready to Loch Lanaich Ross of Mull to assist Tug SCHELDE to tow BARON RENFREW to Rothesay Bay.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0945/23 to MASTADONTE).

Swansea. (Air Raid 21/22).

Water operating gates of South Dock lost and cannot be replaced locally. Arrangements in hand to provide it, and hoped to operate gates for morning tide tommrrow. Other Docks unaffected. 2 U.X. Bombs in Dock Area are being dealt with. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1207/23).

/KINGSTON.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd).

KINGSTON HILL. (Bombed 22/2).

Remain as escort to KINGSTON HILL with NORTHERN SPRAY.
(C. in C. W.A. 1234/23 to PICOTEE).
ST. OLAVES and NORTHERN SPRAY have found KINGSTON HILL. Report your p.c. and s. if you are not in Company.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1239/23 to THAMES).
KINGSTON HILL in tow position 058° 035' N. 011° 29'W. course and speed 110° 3 knots. Making for Minches. THAMES closing to assist. (ST. OLAVES 1345/23).

Convoy F.S.

Fighters have been despatched to the assistance of Convoy MERIT.
(Rosyth 1452/23).

Mining.

Harwich Area.

1 magnetic mine detonated by LL trawlers at 0415 in 51° 50.3' N. 1° 32.8' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0937/23).

Operation T.

Operation G.T. paragraph five. over will be provided by motor gunboats. Five motor gunboats from Fowey and five from Dartmouth will sweep down to French Coast about 15 miles either side of destroyer.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1116/23).
Sailed INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, Motor gunboats 58. 59. 60. 61. (S O) 64.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1915/23).

Tyne.

At 1858/22 and 1900/22 respectively one Red Mine detonated in 047° from North Tyne Pier Light 5½ cables.
(N.O.I.C. North Shields 1158/23, 1159/23).
At 1942/22 one Green Mine detonated in 057° North Pier Light 2 cables.
(N.O.I.C. North Shields 1203/23).
At 1020/23 one Green Mine detonated in 096° North Tyne Pier Light, 12 cables.
(N.O.I.C. North Shields 1224/23).
Port of Tyne open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1501/23).

/Swansea.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Swansea. 5 Mines exploded ERIMO. INVERFORTH seriously damaged. TEWARA slightly damaged.	Port is still closed as many mines appear to have been laid in Approach Channel. Sweeping Operations somewhat impeded as some sweepers are in South Dock and cannot get out at present. Five mines have been exploded. S/A Trawlers ERIMO and INVERFORTH seriously damaged by one explosion, S/A Trawler TEWARA slightly damaged. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1207/23).
Operation EME. 20.	Particulars. To be carried out on night of 24/2 or as soon after as practicable. (V.C.N.S. 1318/23).
Falmouth.	Red Mine detonated at 0807/23 in 50° 7' 35" N. 5° 1' 10" W. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1540/23).
SHOAL FISHER.	(British, 698 Tons) Sunk by mine in 50° 10' 20" N. 4° 49' 50" W. at 1140/23. All crew rescued by H.M.T. SIR JOHN LISTER. 2 slight casualties. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1624/23).
Spurn Point.	The two following mines exploded to-day. (F.O. Humber 1752/23).
Blyth.	Port of Blyth open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1825/23).
Humber.	Cancel my 1015/6/2. (re proposed daily closing) (F.O. Humber 1831/23).
Tees. Hartlepool.	Ports of Tees and Hartlepool closed owing to suspected enemy minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2116/23).
Thames Estuary.	Green Mine detonated by S.A. gear at 1931/23 in 290°. Shivering Sand Buoy 5 cables. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 2150/23).

/Liverpool.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (contd).

Liverpool.	Mine detonated by L.L. in 010° Bar Light Vessel 1.25 miles. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2214/23).
S.N. 7A. S.N. 7B. S.N. 68A.	Consider cause of trouble in S.N. 7a, 7b and 68a to be established by my investigation. Have accordingly advised D.T.M. of my recommendations and requested assistance. If adequate action is taken elsewhere I can be ready for service prior to date C. in C. H.F. can provide cover. (R.A.(M) 2340/23 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

French Coast.	Between 1216 and 1335 yesterday in excellent visibility several R boats or rescue craft were seen off the French Coast. It appeared that they were using smoke, possibly in connection with rescue duties. There was considerable air activity. (V.A.Dover, 1134/23).
HIPPER Class Cruiser at Brest.	Preliminary reports of photographic reconnaissance on 23.2.41 show the HIPPER Class cruiser still in dry dock at Brest. The dock is dry. (D.D.I.C. 1500/23).
Kiel Canal and other intelligence.	It appears that Kiel Canal is still obstructed, apart from ice. It has been previously reported that Canal is still partly blocked by INGA and is passable only by ships under 4000 tons. (N.I.D. Comment on N.A.Stockholm 1137/23) See Lion Copy. Your 0025/21. This must have been freak reception as ship mentioned is known to have been in Baltic on 19th February. (D.N.I. 1550/23 to C.in C. W.A.)
Off Obrestadt.	STURGEON reports on 9/2 following shipping sighted passing 5 miles off shore off Obrestadt. (S.6. 2022/23).
Unidentified Ship.	Indication of unidentified ships 235° Dungeness 17 miles at 2200. (V.A.Dover 2201/23 to BLENCATHRA).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.

W.N.88. Position. (STELLA POLARIS 0230/23).
Arrived, 1615. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1646/23).

F.N.14. 7 ships for Tyne diverted Humber.
(WESTMINSTER 0930/23). Your 0930
Sunderland ships to be diverted to Tees.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1115/23). List.
(N.C.S.O. Humber 1140/23). Numbers from
Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 1252/23).
E.T.A. (WESTMINSTER 1530/23). List to
join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1802/23).

F.S.18. Absentees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0951/23)
25 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0952/23).
2 ships. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1710/23).
1 ship from Humber. (C.in C. Rosyth 2353/23)

F.N.12A. Absentees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0953/23).
Arrived 1630. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1644/23).

F.S.17A. Wash ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1006/2
Position, 25 ships for London.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1213/23). Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1804/23).

F.S.19T. Additional slow convoy from Methil 2000/23.
Escorts. Code, "Merit". (C.in C. Rosyth,
1030/23) Sailed 2000, 27 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 2021/23).

12 M/V's. Code "Chain". (C.in C. Portsmouth 1057/23).
(N.C.S.O. Portsmouth, 1247/23).
Sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1906/23).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

W.N.89. — 1 ship for. (N.C.S.O. Lyness, 1101/23). List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1227/23). Sailed W.N.89 (O) 1645/23. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1701/23 and List, 1705/23).

E.N.75 U. — Arrived (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1105/23).

O.B.O. 290. — 0245/24. VANQUISHER escort, 2 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1115/23).

F.S.17A.
F.S.18.
F.S.19.
F.N.16.
C.E.26. — Movements. (C.in C. Nore, 1200/23).

E.N.76. — Ships for inclusion in O.B.291. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1251/23) Sailed 1630/23. Escorts. 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1809/23) List. (1811/23).

F.S.19. — Numbers from Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 1251/23) Sailed 1500. (1510/23). SHELDRAKE additional escort. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1517/23). No Humber ships. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1711/23). List and destinations. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1801/23).

Channel. — Portsmouth night movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1433/23).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)	
F.S.19. F.N.14. E.N.76.	Movements. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1510/23).
F.N.11.	Non-Arrival. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1520/23).
E.N.77. W.N.90.	GLEANER additional A/A escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 1530/23).
C.E.26.	Sailed 1501/23. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1613/23) List (1617/23).
F.N. and F.S.	Additional escorts. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1832/23).
O.B.C. 290.	2154/23. 17 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2210/23).
11 M/V's.	Escorts. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 2304/23).
Rosyth.	Movements. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2359/23).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys.

H.G.53.	Local Escorts. (LEAMINGTON 0915/23). EMPIRE WARRIOR arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 2146/23).
H.X.107.	FRONTENAC and ANN STATHATOU not arrived. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1053/23). H.X.107 U - 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1209/23). 1 arrival. (N.O.I.C. Barry, 1355/23).
H.X.108.	2 destinations. (D.O.D.(H) 1113/23).
O.G.54.	2300/25. 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1155/23).
S.L.65.	CAMITO to escort. (V.A.N.P. 1158/23).
?°	Not met. MONTGOMERY and PERIWINKLE in company. Searching. (WANDERER 1200/23).
B.H.X.112.	List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 1201/23).
O.B.290.	List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1340/23). Sailed 1252/23, 21 ships, (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1341/23). Escorts. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1800/23).
H.X.111.	My 1529/23. Ships with naval ratings and munitions. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1531/23).
S.L.67.	Destinations. (D.T.D. 1800/23).

1

MOST SECRET.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Military Convoys.

REPULSE
FURIOUS
STRATHNEVER. My 2258/16/2. Sailing of convoy will probably be delayed until March 4th. (D.O.D.(H) 1323/23).

W.S.6.
W.S.6.B. 1. The following transports left U.K. 8/2 in Convoy W.S.6.

2. The following transports left U.K. on 17/2 and will join convoy W.S.6. at Freetown.

3. The following M.T.Ships also sailed in W.S.6. on 8/2.

4. HIGHLAND BRIGADE is to proceed to Buenos Aires on completion of disembarkation at Freetown.
(D.O.D.(F) 1339/23).

ABOSSO. A.M. 1727/22/2.

S.S. ABOSSO from Liverpool to W.Africa with service personnel speed 14½ knots will sail with CITY OF PARIS and ARAWA.
(D.O.D.(H) 1809/23).

BATORY
RIMUTAKA. Admiralty 1401/22 and 1635/22. A/S escort HARVESTER from Liverpool, HESPERUS, HURRICANE from Clyde. Request you will sail ship accordingly. HAVELOCK will be ordered to join escort.

(11) Destroyers are to fuel Reykjavik after making R/V in position (c) and will subsequently meet S.C.23.
(C.in C. W.A. 2234/23).

T.C.9. In view of great importance of Convoy T.C.9. and S/M activity revealed by Wireless request you will consider reinforcing their Escort as early as possible.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2326/23 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Military Convoys.

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MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ASSURANCE. (Rescue Tug). Arrived Campbeltown with engine room defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0131/23).

GARONNE. (Belgian 1208 Tons). Aground between 56A and 55A Buoys. Detail one A/S trawler to stand by. Tug proceeding from Yarmouth.
(C.in C. Nore, 0237/23 to WOOLSTON).

ATHELQUEEN BONDE. British ATHELQUEEN returned from B.H.X.107 for repairs to hull. Norwegian BONDE returned from H.X.108 (corrupt group) engine repairs.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 0956/23).

JERNLAND. Rescue Tug SEA GIANT proceeded to assistance of S.S. JERNLAND anchored at 20 S.Buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1502/23).

Rescue Tug SEA GIANT returned with JERNLAND in tow.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2023/23).

VERONICA. My 1035/22. H.M.S. VERONICA has been retained at Rosyth for engine repairs.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1607/23).

PASS OF LENY. Admiralty 1333/18. PASS OF LENY in tow of BRIGAND leaves Aberdeen at 0100/24 for Methil. Request you will sail SEA GIANT for Methil as soon as possible to take on tow of PASS OF LENY to Tyne.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1708/23 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

INVIGILATOR. (Tug). Reported leaking off Cromer is being towed towards Yarmouth by A/P Vessel HINBA. Tug RICHARD LEE BARBER sent to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1824/23).

AUSONIA. (A.M.C. Serious fracture due to heavy weather has developed in port valve chest after hydraulic cylinder of steering engine. Temporary repairs can be effected in 48 hours provided welding plant is available.

Permanent repairs entail provision of new casting. Northern Patrol can be attempted but in event of further heavy weather grave risk of complete breakdown of steering engine. No hand steering gear fitted. Considered not advisable to recross Atlantic until temporary repairs effected. Request instructions.
(AUSONIA 2235/23).

MOST SECRET.

23. 2. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

P.L.M.12.
LORIENT.

Arrival MARSDALE escorting French Ship P.L.M. 13 and LORIENT. (S.O.I. Gib., 1030/23.)

French Retaliation. Operation "Ration".

French seizure of Allied ships, Dakar and Casablanca. Instructions re: operation "Ration". (Hd. of M., 1953/23, to F.O.C.N.A, V.A. Force H.)
See Operations Volume.

North Atlantic.

WRESTLER.

Arrived. (S.O.I, Gib., 0600/23.)

French M.V.'s.

Merchant officers and seamen required at Gibraltar to sail seized French ships to U.K. Desired to utilize D.B.S. from S.L.S.64. Report members remaining at Funchal after sailing of ships to join H.G.54. (F.O.C.N.A., 1112/23.)

Ships ex S.L.S.64.

My 1805/22. Now hoped to sail all six ships 24/2, to join Convoy H.G.54. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1615/23, to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

TUNA
PANDORA.

Position of submarines 1200/25, (a) TUNA with H.G.54, PANDORA (b) 44° 45' N, 009° 20' W, proceeding surface through 043° 00' 010° 50' thence steering south speed 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1620/23.)

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. Area covered 3° 50' to 6° 40'. (200 Group, 1700/23.)

ASAKA MARU.

My 1704/20 ASAKA MARU sailed for unknown destination P.M. today. (N.A. Lisbon 1721/23, to Admty.)

RESOLUTION sailed.

Departures RESOLUTION, JERSEY, JUPITER, DUNCAN, VELOX in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1252/22. (S.O.I. Gib., 1954/23, to C. in C. W.A.)

/RUBENS.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 2. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

RUBENS. Your 1832/22. Sinking of A/S trawler RUBENS. Evidence from SCARBOROUGH and CERTIAN indicated that RUBENS parted company from O.G.52 p.m./10/2. Probable she mistook a signal passed to her by REGISTAN altering route of convoy as an order to herself to steer direct for 034° 30' N, 010° 00' W and parted company accordingly. (F.O.C.N.A, 2346/23, to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

COMORIN. Your 1612/22. (no trace in W.R.) Presume you are 70 miles astern of position. ECBA has been informed accordingly. (C. in C. S.A, 0531/23, to COMORIN.)

CORNWALL. A.T.2244/22. Report when CORNWALL will be ready for sea. (D.O.D.(F) 1038/23, to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.

Your 1038/23/2, CORNWALL ready for sea 0800/25. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1421B/23, to Admty.)

NEWCASTLE. Arrived Montevideo 1000/22, Z + 3. Intend to depart 0930/23 Z + 3. (NEWCASTLE, 1229z/23.)

Whale Catchers. QUEEN OF BERMUDA. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1827z/22 passed to you. Following received from South Georgia (begins) THORSHAMMER and ten catchers will leave for ice 22/2. No fuel can be supplied by PESCA but THORSHAMMER can supply a certain amount of oil fuel and fresh water to QUEEN OF BERMUDA. THORSHAMMER will meet QUEEN OF BERMUDA in position 064° S. 050° W. (N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1313/23, to C. in C.S.A.)

/MAURITIUS SL.68

MOST SECRET.

23. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

MAURITIUS S. L. 68.	MAURITIUS is to provide additional ocean escort for S.L.68 from Freetown to U.K. (D.O.D.(F) 1642/23, to C. in C. S.A.)
SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.	Admty. 1644/3. Sailing of SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA for Suez is to be postponed for the present. She is to remain at Durban pending further instructions. (D.O.D.(F) 1653/23, to C. in C. S.A.)
DELHI.	A.T. 2350/17. DELHI will now refit at Singapore in accordance with my 1709/13, and is to be sailed when convenient. (D.O.D.(F) 1654/23, to C. in C. S.A.)
DRAGON.	Arrived 1100 oiled and sailed 1800/23. D. of Nigerian Marine Lagos, 1815/23, to C. in C. S.A.)
Whaling Fleet.	My 2027/13, and your 1926/15. Request information of probable movements of Whaling fleet on completion of season in order that consideration may be given to route and protection of whale factory ships on homeward (corrupt group). (C. in C. S.A., 2155/23, to Admty.)
QUEEN OF BERMUDA.	Whilst in Southern Area opportunity should be taken to visit Deception Island in accordance with R.A.S.A.D's. 1558Z/18/12. Subsequently to Fuerteventura from Thorshammes, you should proceed on this duty about 28/2, if your information is that conditions are still suitable and thence to Falkland Islands for fuel and stores. Before leaving neighbourhood of Whaling operations, report your intentions briefly by W/T.(C. in C. S.A., 2231/23, to QUEEN OF BERMUDA.)

MOST SECRET.

23. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units.	From volume of D/F bearings between 1500 and 2130 G.M.T/22, seems evident there are a number of Italian warships at sea in lower Tyrrhenean Sea. (Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 0138/23, to C. in C. Med. etc.)
Tripoli "Cucumbers".	V. A. Malta, 0650/23. See Mediterranean Volume.
Enemy Convoys. Libya.	Convoys reported leaving Palermo 21/2, and Naples P.M./23, both for Libya. (Comdr. S.I, 0915/23, to S/Ms. on patrol.
Operations "Mar. 2." (Abstention) "Mar. 1st." PARTHIAN.	Carry out operation MAR. 2 (ABSTENTION) daylight one is 24/2. MAR. 1 para. 8, light is to be exhibited from 0001/25 onwards. (C.S.3, 1046/23, to PARTHIAN.)
Air attack on Benghazi, and TERROR.	Shortly after dawn 4 JU 88's bombed Benghazi harbour, 6 bombs falling on water front and others near TERROR, little damage except to road no casualties.
Valona, Enemy Ships.	Greece. 22/2. Blenheim Reconnaissance reported 1 ship 17,000 tons 3 ships 10,000 tons leaving Valona on Westward course and 6 ships 8,000 tons arriving Valona. (H.Q.R.A.F.,M.E, 1143/23.)
Massawa bombed by F.A.A.	OPS. SUMM.No. 258. up to 1200 hours 23. 2. 41 III Sudan 21/2. 7 FAA,Albacores bombed Massawa hitting one destroyer in South anchorage and obtaining possible hits on two destroyers at Qain quays and submarine in Northern anchorage, aircraft reported over 35 merchant ships in harbour. (H.Q.,R.A.F., M.E., 1146/23.)

/Ammunition.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Ammunition.	230 15" Shrapnel Shell available in U.K. Would these be of service in Medit.? Fuzes No. 93 are available in Eastern Medit. (D.T.S.D. 1156/23, to C. in C. Med.)
UTMOST.	Will leave Malta P.M./25 to operate in Gulf of Hammemet until A.M./1. She will keep to North of 36° while East of 011° 10'. (Capt. S.I, 1210/23, to URSULA.)
Mine Suez Canal.	One mine exploded on starboard bow of Diesel tug towing SKID at kilometres 73.2 A.M./23. Presence of mines was not suspected presumed to be acoustic. Tug slightly damaged, minor injuries to crew. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal,1955/23.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

DUMMY Signal. CITY OF AUCKLAND — Following has been read. RRRR 21/28S., 52 10E (X331) two unknown warships in sight. (Admiral, Colombo, 0320Z/23, to Admty.).
N.B. See C.in C. East Indies 1940Z/22).
RRRR CITY OF AUCKLAND, Warships following me 21.28S., 52.10 E., course North, speed 12 knots. (Admiral, Colombo, 0333Z/23, to Admty.).
RRRR CITY OF AUCKLAND ordered to stop. (Admiral, Colombo, 0340Z/23).
RRRR CITY OF AUCKLAND. Cancel my RRRR message at 0315. (Admiral, Colombo, T.O.R. 0355Z/23).

U.S.9 LEANDER — Bombay 22/2 LEANDER arrived 0400Z with convoy U.S.9. (S.O.I. Bombay 0401Z/23).

CALEDON PARRAMATTA INDUS CARTHAGE — Arrival 22/2 1815Z CALEDON 2115Z PARRAMATTA 23/2 0330Z INDUS 0425Z CARTHAGE. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0514/23).

CERES ENTERPRISE. — Mombasa arrived 23/2 0455 G.M.T., CERES and ENTERPRISE. (N.O.I.C. East Africa 0545Z/23).

Troop Transport. — Your 2300/21. Summary is correct subject to minor alterations in dates.
Request confirmation that AQUITANIA will proceed Singapore and that ORMONDE will proceed U.K. with 1200 Indian Troops, sailing (date).
Reply to para (iv) about U.S.10 will be signalled as soon as possible.
(S.B.T.O., India, 0655/23, to D. of S.T.).

Kismayu, British prisoners. — An informed prisoners from Kismayu Area state 250 British seamen recently landed Mogadisco and are interned in camp at Merca. No definite information regarding date they were landed. (C.in C. E.I., 0722/23, to Admty.).

Enemy unit. — Mauritius 0508/23. Frequency suggests unit in Atlantic. (Capt. O.S., Singapore 0748Z/23, to C.in C. E.I.).

/ LEANDER ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.2.1941
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

LEANDER — Cancel my 1942/22 comply with my 1200/21. (Routeing instructions for LEANDER). Speed 20 knots. (C.in C. E.I., 0804/23 to LEANDER).

EMERALD, HERMES, SHROPSHIRE, AUSTRALIA, GLASGOW, CAPETOWN — EMERALD and HERMES are to proceed now towards position 014° S. 055° through position 011° S. 051° at about 1000 Z/24. SHROPSHIRE is to pass West of Farguar Island and adjust speed to keep in supporting distance, EMERALD and HERMES making contact as necessary on 24/2. AUSTRALIA after passing through position 009° S. 054° proceed towards position 018° S. 057° at 27 knots. GLASGOW search between Madagascar and 055° E. proceeding Mauritius to fuel when necessary. CAPETOWN is to patrol to North East of Seychelles during night 24/25 fuelling Port Victoria a.m./25. (C.in C. E.I., 0820Z/23, to Force V).

DORSETSHIRE, Force Z. — Your 1804Z/22. Unless touch has been regained with enemy DORSETSHIRE is to return to Force Z and escort to northward. Early arrival of Force Z in Mediterranean is of utmost importance. Relief of DORSETSHIRE with Force Z will be considered later. (V.C.N.S. 1048/23, to C.in C. E.I.). Admiralty 1046/23 not to you. Do not enter Durban. R/V with me at 0530Z/24 in 028° S. 034° E. (DORSETSHIRE, 1130Z/23, to S.O. Force Z). Your 1046/23. If touch has not been reported by 1500Z/23 DORSETSHIRE will rejoin Force Z off Durban early a.m./24. N.O.I.C. Simonstown is requested to sail Force Z accordingly. (C.in C. E.I., 1132/23, to Admty.). Force Z sighted and proceeding northwards in accordance with DORSETSHIRE's 1130Z/23. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1420Z/23, to Admty. etc.).

/ HINDUSTAN
INDUS ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

HINDUSTAN
INDUS

C.in C. East Indies 1126Z/16.
Not clear whether HINDUSTAN and INDUS are to join Mediterranean Fleet, but in view of your present heavy commitments I suggest you retain these two ships for time being assuming they would if necessary be able to join me at a few days notice. (C.in C. Med., 1117/23, to C.in C. E.I.).

Shipping, East Africa.

As raiders in the Indian Ocean have so far abstained from operations in the vicinity of Coastal Waters request you will consider the desirability of merchant shipping being routed closer to the East African Coast. (D.T.D. 1310/23 to C.in C. E.I., C.in C. S.A.)

GLASGOW position.

My p.c. and s. are 017° 24' S. 053° 30' E. 069° 24 knots. Intend to search Cargados Carajos area at daylight tomorrow Monday. If no sign of raider or auxiliary intend to proceed to Mauritius searching to S.E. on the way. Request fuel at Port Louis at 1400Z/21. (GLASGOW, 1512Z/23 to C.in C. E.I.).

"Q" Mining Messages.

Requirement now exists on E. Indies Station for a more confidential series of Q Messages to promulgate laying of British mines. Proposals. (D.M.S., 1712/23, to C.in C's E.I., China, etc.). See Special Summaries Folder.

Force V.

If contact pocket battleship not regained by dark 24/2, intentions for GLASGOW, DORSETSHIRE, AUSTRALIA, SHROPSHIRE, HERMES, EMERALD, CANBERRA, CAPETOWN (C.in C. E.I., 1928Z/23, to Force V.) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

INDUS. My 1250/18. Pending decision of Indian Government as regards transfer INDUS leaves Aden 24/2 for docking and essential repairs at Bombay. (C.in C. E.I., 1832Z/23, to C.in C. Med.).

SHROPSHIRE bombardment of Brava. Italian Somaliland operations. SHROPSHIRE bombarded near Brava A.M./22. Result direct hit on buildings Modun. Considerable damage to the whole Modun Area and to Modun-Gelib Road. Transport under trees shelled but result not observed.
CERES will be available for co-operation with Army from 25/2.
Military hope to take Brava 24/2.
(C.in C. E.I. 1906Z/23, to Admty.).

China.

AQUITANIA Your 2317/20. AQUITANIA can be docked and work necessary to increase capacity accepted. A.C.N.B. has been asked to furnish details of latter.
(C.in C. China, 0301/23, to Admty.).

Pacific Defence. Agreement for defence of S.W. Pacific Area. Reply to High Commissioners Australia and New Zealand in reply to telegram No.87 of 12/2/1941 from Govt. of Australia.
(1 S.L., 1820/23 to C.in C's China and E. Indies). Original in Lion Copy only.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

H.X.110. — Your 1349/13. Instruction in para. 2 given to Halifax portions of all Halifax convoys commencing with H.X.110 and S.C. convoys commencing with S.C.24. Bermuda H.X.110 probably not instructed due to earlier sailing. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1001/23, to Admty.).

WORCESTERSHIRE, Ice. — F.O. Iceland 2130/21/2. Request you inform WORCESTERSHIRE of ice conditions on her route if necessary. Do you consider it advisable for ships to continue to pass to northwards of area defined in Admiralty's 1933/16/1. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1232/23, to C.O.A.C. Halifax.).

H.X.111. — Halifax departure 22/2 AURANIA ocean escort. H.X.111. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1331/23, to Admty. etc.).

NEWARK — My E.926/36 and my 1131/16. Subject to your satisfaction with latest fuel consumption figures route to U.K. is to be amended as follows (details). S.S. TRELAWNEY reported being shelled by an enemy warship in position, 047° 12' N. 040° 13' W. on 22/2. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1630/13 to NEWARK).

Suspicious Signal. — My 1216/22. Following received O.I.C. Resolution Island (begins) 2014 G.M.T. O H F J calling O F D C abrupt call, sounds suspicious, similar note to raider jamming yesterday bearing 94 uncalibrated comparative bearing T F A 63 uncalibrated (Ends). (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2132/23, to Admty., C.in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

HOBART AWATEA	Departure from Sydney for Auckland HOBART escorting AWATEA, 0220Z/22. (A.C.N.B., 0220Z/23, to Admty. etc.).
WESTRALIA ZEALANDIA	WESTRALIA escorting ZEALANDIA arrived and sailed Bowen 1945Z/21. (A.C.N.B., 0250Z/23, to Admty. etc.).

New Zealand.

KING LUD	My 0300Z/22. KING LUND. Surveyor reports ship seaworthy. Ship ordered to Taltal Chile Ministry of Shipping. (Customs, Suva, 0342/23, to S.O.I., Wellington, N.Z.).

MOST SECRET.

23. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MARGHERA
CARSO.

Your 11482/21. (Scuttled ships MARGHERA and CARSO.) Report if it is possible to salvage these ships.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1355/23 to C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

23. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

Summary.

My 1641/11/1. Periodical summary of Anti-U-Boat Campaign up to 10/2. (D.T.D. 1737/23, to AIG.47 and 48 for N.C.S.O.'s) Original in Lion copy only.

MANISTEE
O.B. Vessel.

Have been struck by torpedo on Port side posn., is 058° 15' N,021° 33' W. (MANISTEE, 2145/23, to Whitehall W/T.)

Making water in main bunker, course 000° speed 6 knots. Damage at present under control. (MANISTEE, 2245/23.)

Detach HEATHER to proceed to assistance of MANISTEE torpedoed in position 058° 13' N, 021° 33' W, at 2145. Further signal will be made at 0400. (C. in C. W.A, 2320/23, to GEORGETOWN.)

Unknown ship.

The unknown vessel SSSS 5926 N, 2108 W, submarine sighted. (Valentia Radio 2245/23, to Naval Wireless Admiralty, Admiral Devonport.

TEMPLEMOAT.

Following has been read: S.S.S.S. 59. 27 N. 20. 20 W. TEMPLEMOAT still chased. Submarine.(Lyness W/T, 2346/23.)

S/M's Reported.

1313.	S.W. of Ireland.	)
1345.	59° 60° N, 15 - 20° W.	)
1424.	58° N, 18-20° W.	)Indefinite
1435.	58° N, 18-20° W.	) positions.
1545.	58.30 N, 19° W.	) (D.S.538.)
1910.	60° N, 9.30 W.	)

S/M's Reported.
0926.

An enemy S/M has made a first sighting report of a Convoy or important unit. (D.D.I.C. 0926/23, to Western Approaches.

/My 0926/23.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN. Contd.

My 0926/23. No fix obtained. It is possible that formation reported was HX 108 or S.C.22 convoy. (D.D.I.C. 0952/23, to GEORGETOWN, ANTELOPE, WANDERER,WITCH, MAYFLOWER,SNOWBERRY.

My 0952/23. It is also possible that CANTON was reported. (D.D.I.C, 1054/23, to CANTON.

My 0952/23, and 1054/23. Further transmission at 1049/23, indicates CANTON is most probably unit concerned.(D.D.I.C. 1114/23, to CANTON.)

1301. An enemy S/M has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit. (D.D.I.C. 1301/23 to Ships and Authorities in Area B. H.Q.C.C.

My 1301/23. It is probable that formation reported was OB 288 convoy. (D.D.I.C. 1316/23.)

1411. An enemy S/M has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit. (D.D.I.C. 1411/23 to Ships and Authorities in Area B. H.Q.C.C.

My 1411/23. It is probable that formation reported was O.B.288, or S.C.22,convoy. (D.D.I.C. 1426/23.)

1453. An enemy S/M has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit. (D.D.I.C. 1453/23, to Ships and Authorities in Area B. H.Q.C.C.

My 1453/23. It is probable that formation reported was H.M.S. CANTON Two U boats may be co-operating. (D.D.I.C. 1504/23 to CANTON CHURCHILL, H.Q.C.C.

/Estimated.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 2. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN Contd.

Estimated
U/B dispositions.

German.One 40 miles of 59° 30' N.14° W,
may return to area north of 60° N.
West of 15° W.
One 40 miles of 58° N, 20°30' W,
One 60 miles of 56° 30' N. 21°W.
One 40 miles of 53° 30' N. 19°W.
One 90 miles of 53° 30' N. 23°30'W.
One about 48 degs. 30' east of 20°W.
en route Lorient. One arriving Lorient
S.W.

Italian. One 40 miles of 58°40' N,
16° 20' W.
One 40 miles of 59°20'N.14° 30' W.
One 90 miles of 56°N. 16° W.
2 in Bay of Biscay.
2 others at Sea.(D.D.I.C. 1259/23.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U-boat attacks in N.W. Approaches.

Two ships were attacked yesterday and 6 today in 3 separate areas in the N.W. Approaches, viz. MANISTEE (U.S.V.) reported torpedoed yesterday evening and again this morning whilst making for port; S.S. TEMPLE MOAT ex O.B.288 chased yesterday; and the following torpedoed today: S.S. HUNTINGDON ex O.B.288 S.S. JONATHAN HOLT, MANSEPOOL and tankers G.C. BROVIG and BRITISH GUNNER.
The four last were on the Northern Approach Route, north of 61° N., in Convoy O.B.289; the attack was made ½ hour before daylight, probably by at least two submarines. Trawler GRAMPIAN is also reported torpedoed this morning in the N.W. Approaches.
S.S. ELISABETH LENSEN reported sighting a submarine in 60° 26' N. 25° 50' W. at 1810 today.

C.in C. H.F. suggests, with reference to the above torpedoings, that submarine reports should be made in plain language. This would enable other ships approaching the area to be warned more quickly.

It is estimated that there are 9 U-boats (including 2 Italian) operating in the N.W. Approaches.

Convoy C.W.26 fired at.

Enemy coastal batteries fired 13 rounds early this morning during the passage of C.W.26 through the Downs. No damage is reported.

E.boats.

There were indications at 0003/24 and 2311/24 of E.boats in the Thames Approaches.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

Aircraft of Bomber Command carried out heavy attacks last night on Boulogne and Calais.
A direct hit is claimed on a ship in No.2 dock at Calais. Owing to bad weather, no operations were carried out today.
Coastal Command aircraft attacked Brest last night.

Two enemy destroyers were sighted by aircraft off Ile de Vierge (near Ushant) this morning. Beaufort aircraft were despatched and attacked unsuccessfully this afternoon.
Dawn fighter R.C. has been asked for, in case the enemy destroyers pass Gris Nez at daylight tomorrow.

Enemy Air Activity.

An aircraft dropped bombs in Switha Sound and off Gantic Head early this afternoon and BLACKPOOL was bombed this morning off Duncansby Head. No damage occurred in either case.
Five small vessels were unsuccessfully attacked this afternoon 35 miles N. by E. of Cromer. Coastal Command aircraft on patrol drove off the attacker.
CAMERON sunk in No.8 dock at Portsmouth on 5/12 was successfully refloated today and docked for examination.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation G.T.

INTREPID and IMPULSIVE last night laid mines off Brest, covered by motor gun boats. M.G.B. 63 failed to return to harbour and was last seen at 2145/23 about 40 miles south of Eddystone. M.G.B. 46 was towed in to harbour.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected from the Tyne to the Humber.

Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary, off Milford Haven, North Shields, Spurn Point, Hull, the Mumbles and Flatholm Light.

Tees and Hartlepool were reopened this afternoon.

North Atlantic.

The six ships which found their way to Funchal from Convoy S.L.S.64, which was attacked by a raider on 12/2, sailed today for the U.K. in Convoy H.G.54.

Mediterranean.

TERROR sunk.

TERROR sank off Derna at 0400 today as the result of damage sustained in air attacks at Benghasi on 22/2 and off Derna yesterday evening.

DAINTY sunk.

DAINTY was by air attack sunk off Tobruk during dusk today. She is the fortieth destroyer (including 2 of R.C.N.) to be sunk during the present war.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Our troops occupied Brava today.

Search for pocket battleship.

Fresh dispositions were made to commence at dark today. GLASGOW, after fuelling at Mauritius is to relieve DORSETSHIRE escorting Force Z on 28/2. AUSTRALIA is on her way to fuel at Mauritius after which she is to search an area in the southern part of the Indian Ocean between Madagascar and Australia. SHROPSHIRE, HERMES and EMERALD are to operate in the Seychelles area, using Port Victoria for fuelling; CAPETOWN after fuelling at Port Victoria is to reinforce the escort (ENTERPRISE) of Convoy W.S.5BX taking troops to Bombay. CANBERRA and LEANDER are to proceed towards Fremantle.

Air raid on Aden.

The Naval W/T station power line was put out of action for a short time this morning by an air raid.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

ANJA. Admiralty's 2134/23 and my 1729/22.
Master of ANJA admits receiving W/T instructions on 20/2, to effect that he would be standing into danger unless he altered course to proceed through Skopen Fiord.
By then he was approaching Iceland.
Considered route through Denmark Straits safer.
ANJA does not apparently carry large scale charts of Faroes.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland 1159/24).

Jan Mayen. Representatives of Co-operative Society request permission to send expedition to Jan Mayen in June to collect driftwood in view of scarcity of timber in Iceland.
Do not consider advisable and propose to withold permission.
(F.O. Iceland 1343/24).

Firing at Unseen Targets. Admiralty 1857/20. As A.S.V. sets fitted and to be fitted in destroyers (types 285 and 286 M) cannot normally receive I.F.F. the restriction imposed on firing at unseen targets will have a considerable adverse effect on power of offence and defence of A.A. destroyers against aircraft. I appreciate balance is not easy to strike.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1437/24).
Your 1857/20. Concur with C.in C. H.F. 0034/23.
(C.in C. W.A. 1441/24).

CORNWALL DORSETSHIRE. Owing to presence of Pocket Battleship in Indian Ocean, return of CORNWALL and DORSETSHIRE to U.K. must be postponed.
(1st S.L. 2305/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.8.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE. At 1130/24. (D.C.1142/24).
At 2330/24. (D.C.2359/24).

Bristol Channel A/A Defences. Request very early decision on mounting of A.A.Guns on Flatholm and Steepholm. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1105/23).

Faroes A.A. Defences. My 2359/21, your 1516/22 and your 1921/22/12. These guns will be manned by naval personnel from the fleet until local infantry battalions have been sufficiently trained to take them over. Request that arrangements may be made for A.A. gunners to be sent at an early date to man these guns pending consideration of final A.A. defence, arrangements for Faroes. (A.C.O.S. 1939/24).

Movements.

VESLA KARI HONNINGSVAAG. My 1229/21. VESLA KARI and HONNINGSVAAG delayed by heavy gale off North coast of Iceland. Further signal will be made when situation is clear. (F.O.Iceland 1559/24).

MAIDSTONE TYNE. In view of docking and subsequent movements it is important that MAIDSTONE should be relieved by TYNE at earliest possible date. Can confirmation now be given that TYNE will sail for Scapa on 28/2 after acceptance. (R.A.D. 1435/24).

Northern Patrol. Trawler lines tonight. (4 trawlers). (A.C.O.S. 1536/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Submarines. Positions at 0800/25 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1854/24).

SUNFISH. SUNFISH is expected to sail about 0030/25 westwards of Orkneys and, Shetlands to position 61° 30'N., 2° 30'W. escorted by SOUTHERN SHORE thence routed northwards.
(A.C.O.S. 1854/24).

0.21.
0.23. 0.21. and 0.23 escorted by WHITE BEAR are proceeding Southbound through Minches tonight Monday.
(C.in C. W.A. 1924/24 to HUGH WALPOLE).

WAR DIWAN.
WAR PINDARI. Arrangements for WAR DIWAN to relieve WAR PINDARI.
(R.A.Scapa 2001/24 to C.in C. H.F.)

OLYMPUS. Intend to sail OLYMPUS from Dartmouth at 1800/26 B.S.T. unescorted diving by day as far as position C thence on surface at C. O's discretion routed as follows to 350° Cape Spartel, 10 miles.

4. OLYMPUS enters North Atlantic Station at 0600/2 B.S.T.
(S.S. 2000/24).

TRIBUNE.
TAKU. Sailed 1630 escorted by CUTTY SARK in accordance with Capt: S.2.1048/22.
Submarines enter N.A.& W.I.Station at 1200/2/3.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 2211/24).
You may meet in the vicinity of Skerryvore. TRIBUNE, TAKU with CUTTY SARK Westbound.
0.21 0.23 with WHITEBEAR Southbound.
(S.2. 2321/24 to TRIBUNE, TAKU, 0.21 0.23.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

N.C.	Operation N.C. will be carried out. Zero hour 2115. (V.A.Dover, 1458/24).
PYA.	Operation P.Y.A. will be carried out tonight. (C.in C. Nore, 1621/24).
KASHMIR. KIPLING. JACKAL. (Relief of Escort for RESOLUTION).	As KASHMIR will not be in Harbour in time to sail with JACKAL and KIPLING the latters directions proceed in company to comply with my 1232/24. This signal will be passed to KASHMIR on arrival. (ii) KASHMIR will be sailed later to join JACKAL and KIPLING who are to pass through 049° 30'N., 010° 00'W. As much Westing as practicable is to be made during night 24/25. (C.in C. Plymouth 1724/24 to JACKAL, KASHMIR Sailed 0650 KASHMIR. Arrived 1850 KASHMIR. Sailed 1900 JACKAL, KIPLING. Sailed 2032 KASHMIR. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1910/24 and 2154/24).
Convoy C.E.26. shelled in the Downs.	Enemy coastal batteries fired thirteen rounds between 0506 and 0525 today during passage of C.E.26 through the Downs. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A.Dover 1742/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Proposed Code-Words for Fighter Co-operation in Channel.

To reduce length of signals requesting fighter co-operation it is proposed to allot permanent code words to regular groups sailing in English Channel as has already been done for routine minesweeping. Request five more code words may be alloted. (C.in C. Plymouth 0122/24).

Clyde. Bombing Restrictions.

Request bombing restrictions Clyde Sanctuary from 1800/28 until 0800/2. (S.7. 1021/24 to H.Q.C.C.)

Air Escorts.

Expect air escort of one Whitley from 0200/25.
(C.in C. W.A. 1049/24 to ENCHANTRESS, WHITEHALL).

Expect air escort by Sunderland throughout the night.
(C.in C. W.A. 2106/24 to GEORGETOWN).

Instructions for A/C attacking shipping.

Your 0059/22. Concur in principle with proposals but as existing limit passes too close to Q.Z.Y. 174 and through Q.Z.X. 267 propose para. 3 A (i) of A.M. 1111/2099/4 should be amended to read as follows.

2. Reference para.2 of Admty. Msge. 0059/22 As destroyers from Plymouth usually operate to Southward of the proposed line at least one night in 3, propose the Channel West of 3° West be divided into following area for ease of reference.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1120/24 to Admty).
Your 0059/22. Cancel my 1149/22. Concur in proposals as far as Nore Command Area is concerned. In view of the difficulties of accurate navigation by aircraft at night I consider that the proposed free bombing area is too close to Dungeness to allow a sufficient margin of safety for Channel convoys Coastal traffic and Warships on passage. Propose that distance should be increased to at least 10 miles from Dungeness.
(C.in C. Nore, 1224/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

A.M. 0059/22. concur.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1400/24).
My 1900/22. Concur with C.in C. Nore's 1224/24.
(V.A.Dover, 1743/24).

Enemy Destroyers Attacked.

My 1202/24. Destroyers attacked by Beaufort Aircraft in position 049° N., 003° 25' W. course 075° at 1328. One near miss reported.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1702/24).
Aircraft reported two enemy Destroyers at 1040 today 10 miles North of Isle de Vierge (Near Ushant) and at 1328 carried out an unsuccessful attack in 49° North 03° 25'W. Course of Destroyers was 075° and it is possible they may pass Gris Nez at Daylight tomorrow. Request that a dawn fighter reconnaissance may be carried out between Boulogne and Calais.
(V.A.Dover, 2006/24 to A.O.C. 11 Group).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy E.N.Even.

Fighters are being sent to even numbered E.N. convoy.
(Rosyth W/T 1210/24).
One enemy aircraft shadowing Convoy in 58° 21'N., 2° 29'W.
(FOWEY 1259/24).
Fighters are being sent to assist.
(Lyness W/T 1809/24).
An enemy air attack is imminent on convoy PADDLE.
(Lyness W/T 2028/24).

KASHMIR.

Am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft.
(KASHMIR 1422/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Orkneys. BLACKPOOL attacked.	Between 1235 and 1250 today one enemy aircraft passed over Skeabrae Stromness Switha then turned East and left over South Ronaldsay. Height about 20,000 feet. 2 bombs dropped in Switha Sound and 6 off Cantick Head no damage or casualties. Aircraft was engaged by shore batteries no result, observed. Weather fine wind N.E'ly fresh, visibility good. BLACKPOOL bombed and machine gunned by Ju 88 at 1140 in 58° 32'N., 2° 49' W., no hits no casualties. (A.C.O.S. 1619/24).
ATHELSULTAN. (Bombed 19/2).	C.in C. Rosyth 1708/23. Rescue tug sailed to assist ATHELSULTAN into Tyne and 1640 sailed for Methil E.T.A.0400/25. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1647/24).
CAMERON. (Bombed 5/12).	Job D.136 damaged by enemy action in No.8 dock was successfully refloated on 23/2 and removed to No.11 dock where the vessel has been docked for examination and survey. (Dockyard, Portsmouth 1931/24).
Convoy E.N.Odd.	An enemy air attack is imminent on convoy USAGE to whose assistance fighters are being sent. (Liverpool W/T 2250/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation G.T.	Completed according to plan. (Capt: D.20 0634/24). My 1915/23. M.G.Bs. 58.59.60.61 and 64 returned. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0759/24). 0730/24 H.M.S. INTREPID and IMPULSIVE arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0837/24). Proceed with despatch to relieve KASHMIR towing Motor Gunboat 46 to Plymouth. KASHMIR P.C. and S. at 1155/24 175° Lizard Head 43 miles 030° 8 knots. (C.in C. Plymouth 1444/24 to BURWELL). My 1444. 2 Blenheims are escorting. Proceed to Dartmouth on completion if daylight permits. (C.in C. Plymouth 1456/24 to BURWELL). KASHMIR's P.C. and S. at 1442 165°. The Lizard 35 miles 030° 7 knots. (C.in C. Plymouth 1511/24 to BURWELL). BURWELL taken over. E.T.A. Rame Head 1840. KASHMIR 1737/24).
Thames Estuary.	LL Trawlers report one red mine detonated at 1937/23 in 223° Knob Bell Buoy 4½ cables. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 1025/24).
P.W.5.	Weather permitting Operation P.W.5. will be carried out tonight, ships sailing at 1815. (C.in C. Nore, 1036/24). M.T.Bs. 31.32.34 sailed at 1820. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1838/24).
Z.M.E.20.	Intend leaving Milford Haven 1715 today for Operation Z.M.E.20. To lay at 2315 returning on completion about 0420/25. (PLOVER 1109/24).
Tees. Hartlepool.	Ports of Tees and Hartlepool now open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1620/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Milford Haven.	Following 4 mines exploded by sweepers today. First Mine. At 0935/24 in 104° St. Anns Head 12 Cables. Second Mine. At 0936/24 in 131° St. Anns Head 10.5 cables. Third Mine. At 0945/24 in 119° St. Anns Head 13.5 cables. 180° 3 knots. Green 10° 1 cable. Fourth Mine. At 1037/24 in 120° St. Anns Head 22 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1731/24).
North Shields.	Details of 5 mines exploded. (P.N.S.O. North Shields, 1755/24, 1800/24 1803/24, 1805/24, 1809/24).
Spurn Point and Hull.	The following three mines exploded today. Off Spurn Point. Particulars. A spontaneous explosion occurred at 1727 in 106° Eastern end of Victoria Pier Hull. 5.75 cables. (F.O. Humber, 1818/24).
Swansea.	Details of 2 mines exploded off the Mumbles and one off Flatholm light. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1850/24 1910/24, 2214/24 0950/25).

Enemy Intelligence.

E/Boats.	Suspect E/Boat vicinity 54 E buoy at 2346. (C.in C. Nore, 0003/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

E/Boats. (Contd.)	Indication of possible E/Boat position Z at 2240. (C.in C. Nore, 2311/24).
Brest.	Estimate photographs obtained of Brest harbour. The HIPPER Class Cruiser is still present in dry dock. (Plymouth 1140/24) (D.D.I.C. 1615/24).
Unknown Vessel.	Unknown vessel following us at speed. Position 60° 58'N., 20° 23'W. (Unknown Vessel 1158/24).
2 Destroyers off Ile Vierge.	Aircraft reports at 1040 two destroyers 10 miles North Ile Vierge course 075. Section of Blenheims and Beaufort A/C have been ordered to attack, shadow and report. (C.in C. Plymouth 1202/24).
Enemy Minesweeping.	Magnetic mines being swept by German Aircraft in Flushing area, also at unspecified district in Norway C.S. (N.A.Stockholm, 1715/24).

Miscellaneous.

Aultbea Mine-loop.	Ml. Mine loop laid. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1027/24).
Flashes.	2 white flashes not A.A.fire lasting a few seconds were seen out to sea in a westerly direction from Fortune Well 1194 at 2245 hours. Report of similar flashes in this direction at 2212 hours just received from 8th Essex Regiment. (10th Somerset Regt. 2250/24 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Anchorage Returns.

It may become necessary to fill certain anchorages to capacity at short notice. Daily anchorage return should be completed by a foot-note in the form "25 acceptable". This is to indicate approximate number of additional ships which can be accommodated on a date 2 days after issue of the anchorage return, account being taken of probable arrivals and sailings in the meantime. (D.T.D. 1919/24 to N.C.S.O's Kirkwall, Belfast, Oban, Aultbea).

Coastal Convoys.

W.N.90. 0828/24. Escort, 2 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0848/24). Names. (0857/24).

F.S.17A. Humber ships arrived. (exception). (N.C.S.O. Humber, 0930/24).

F.S.18. Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber 0930/24). Position, 19 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1052/24). Arrived except GARONNE. (2049/24).

F.N.14. Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 0932/24). Arrived 1130/24. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1146/24). AROSA absentee. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1721/24).

F.S.19. 51 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0939/24). List from Tyne to London. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, no T.O.O.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.16. 0839/24, 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1004/24). KITTIWAKE with. (1006/24). List. (1109/24) 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Harwich 1538/24). Joining from Humber, (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1720/24).

12 M/Vs. Your 1906/23, "Chain" arrived. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth to Portsmouth, 1010/24).

E.N.75. 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1026/24). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2033/24).

E.N.77. 0400/25. Escorts. 25 ships. Codes. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1125/24). ST. LOMAN additional escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1240/24).

F.S.22. HEBE additional escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 1125/24).

F.S.18, F.S.19, F.N.16, F.N.17, C.E.26. Positions. (C.in C. Nore, 1200/24).

C.E.26. M.L.105 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1203/24) All arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1359/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

E.N.U.76.	0330/25, unescorted, 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1248/24).
W.N.U. 89.	1330/24, unescorted, 6 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1446/24). List (1520/24).
W.N.89.	Position. (High Walpole, 1657/24).
E.N.75.	Position. (A.C.C.S. 1704/24).
W.N.U.88.	Names and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1759/24).
7 M/V's.	Escort. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 2223/24).
F.N.17.	EXMOOR additional escort. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2234/24).
F.S.21.	Sailed. 2300/24. 28 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2315/24).

Ocean Convoys.

O.B.O.290.	0245/24. 2 ships, names and E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 0415/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X.107. 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0859/24).
1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1725/24).

O.B.C.290. Amendment to list. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0945/24
List and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1045/24 Admty. B.O. Greenock, 1914/24).

O.B.290. 2 ships. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1000/24).
1 Absentee. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1104/24).

H.X.108. 1 deletion. (D.T.D. 1113/24).

S.C.22. Destinations. (D.T.D. 1114/24, 1115/24, 1116/24).

H.G.53. OUSEL arrived. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1155/24).
2 arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1346/24).
2 arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1725/24).
1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 2110/24).

O.B.288. E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1205/24).
List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1338/24).

O.G.54. WIGRY, poor speed. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1230/24
List, destinations and E.T.A.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1900/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

O.G.M.54.	1822/24, escorts. 13 ships. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1901/24).
S.C.24.	Advance sailing telegram, (S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1329/24).
O.G.	7 Turkish ferry boats to be included in next. (C.in C. W.A. 1330/24).
H.X.109.	Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1648/24 to MALCOLM MALLOW etc.)
H.X.111.	Asking why tankers not included. (D.T.D. 1735/24 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda).
H.X.112.	Destinations. (D.T.D. 2017/24).
H.X.112.) S.C.24.)	Cruiser to cover. Dates and Routes. (D.O.D.(H) 2204/24 to C.in C. H.F.) See Operations Volume.
ORDUNA.	Estimated position at 1200/24. (C.in C. W.A. 1130/24 to LANCASTER). Unable to locate. (LANCASTER 1530/24). Approved to return Port Z.A. (C.in C. W.A. 1926/24). My E.T.A. (LANCASTER, 2020/24).
DETTIFOSS.	Halifax to Reykjavik (route). (D.T.D. 2110/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military Convoys.

T.C.9.

T.C.9. will pass through following estimated position (Z).

2. Route thence through position (P).

3. Convoy consists of (?five) ships. Ocean escort C.S.18 in EDINBURGH. A/S escort OTTAWA, HAVELOCK, RESTIGOUCHE, ASSINIBOINE, CHURCHILL, Fr. Light Cruiser LEOPARD.

4. Capt: (D)3 in INGLEFIELD with ECLIPSE and ECHO to carry out an A/S sweep along reverse of route in para.2 and when met are to form additional A/S escort for convoy T.C.9.
(R.A.D.H.F. 0416/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

PASS OF LENY.	Admty. 1333/18. Sailed H.M.Tug BRIGAND with PASS OF LENY in tow. E.T.A.Methil 1200/24. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 0140/24).
GARONNE. (Grounded 23/2).	Sailed tug NORMAN to assist GARONNE aground between 56A and 55A buoys. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0355/24). Detail SAPHIRE to stand by GARONNE. (WOOLSTON, 0356/24 to VORTIGERN). Our degaussing gear out of action we now ? stopped endeavouring to effect repairs. (NORMAN 0600/24). Report situation and position of GARONNE. Fighter protection arranged. Code word Adam help messages on Port Wave. (C.in C. Nore, 0633/24 to SAPPHIRE). One escort is to part company at 1300 and return up Barrow Deep to look for S.S. GARONNE. If found she is to be escorted to the Nore L.V. (C.in C. Nore, 1135/24 to WOOLSTON). Proceeding in accordance with C.in C. Nore's 1135. (WOOLSTON 1234/24 to VORTIGERN). Your 1500/24 remain in vicinity of B eight buoy until 1600. (C.in C. Nore, 1545/24 to VORTIGERN).
M.G.B.63.	M.G.B.63 has not returned to harbour. Last seen by M.G.B.42 at 2145/23 about 40 miles South of Eddystone. Blenheim Aircraft has been sent to search for her and has orders to inform you if seen. Report if M.G.B.46 has any later information of M.G.B.63. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1032/24 to KASHMIR).
Derelict.	1. Derelict reported in 55° 54'N., 13° 59'W. at 1125 on 23rd. Being broadcast for 24 hours. (Hydrographer 1720/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ASAKA MARU. My 1521/15/2. Lisbon reports Japanese ship ASAKA MARU sailed p.m./23 destination unknown. She is not to be interfered with.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0757/24 to N.A.Station.)
(Capt: S.8 1056/24 to PANDORA) See also China Station.

PANDORA. Report your P.C. and S. 24 hours before arrival position F. Trawler SCOTTISH ALOUETTE on patrol off Lisbon.
(Capt: S.8. 1022/24 to PANDORA).

TUNA
PANDORA. At 1200/25. TUNA with Convoy H.G.54. PANDORA 041° N., 010° 50'W. proceeding on the surface through 038° 20'N., 010° 50'W. and 036° 45'N., 009° 30'W. to Gibraltar speed 10 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1034/24).

H.G.54. My 1615/23 (Ships joining Convoy H.G.54) all six ships have sailed.
(N.C.S.O. Funchal 1330/24 to Admty).

French Shipping Movements. Gibraltar 1200/24 French armed trawler LA RAVRAISE escorting CAPITAINE-ST-MARTIN IMERETHIE II both passing loaded from Westward to Eastward.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1447/24).
Ref: 1620/20 from F.O.C.N.A. (re Ships ex S.L.S.64) following is part 2.
MARGO, VOLTURNO, CLUNE PARK, BLAIR ATHOLL, POLYTOR, ANNA MAZARAKI. (cargoes and destinations). (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1647/24)

H.G.55.
bunkers. Owing to temporary coal shortage here ships for H.G.55 should be bunkered as far as possible at Lisbon for 26 days on leaving Gibraltar. (R.A.Gibraltar 1600/24 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

Air Report. Daily Summary Operations. Area covered 5° West to 8° 30'West.
(200 Group, 1700/24).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Italian Aircraft. — Movements. (N.A.Lisbon 1732/24).

Official call by F.O.C.N.A. — At request of the Governor and after consulting H.B.M. Ambassador Madrid today I paid an official call on the Military Governor at Algeciras meeting a most cordial reception. (F.O.C.N.A. 1842/24).

MARSDALE. ISIS. ENCOUNTER. — Departure for R.3. escorted by ISIS ENCOUNTER as far as 033° 30'N. 009° 40'W. Destroyer thence to Freetown. (Route). (F.O.C.N.A, 1942/24).

South Atlantic.

CLEMATIS. — Attack on S/m contact 1900/23 (See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN).

MORVIKON raft found. — Lanes life raft containing 7 suits oilskins with Norwegian Ensign and name Morvikon, Bergen, 1938, was washed ashore on 21/2 at Spitzkop near Cape Agulhas. MORVIKON sailed Capetown 22/8/1940 for Calcutta but failed to arrive. Lloyds Index dated 14/1/1941 reports this ship 1930 miles N.E. Capetown on 28/8/40. (S.O.I. Capetown 1030/24).

Special movements. — Forecast, Week ending 1/3. (S.O.I. Capetown 1047/24).
Amendment to 1601/20 (S.O.(I) Capetown 1230/21 Week ending 1/3 (C. in C. S.A. 1305/24).

OAKDENE. GUIDO. — Your 2105/22. OAKDENE sailed independently (my 1902/20) GUIDO cannot discharge cargo but will take 150 tons coal on deck, which will enable her to reach U.K. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1114/24).

DELHI. — My 2037/18 (DELHI to be retained at Simonstown) On completion of laying D.G. range DELHI is to be sailed for Singapore as in my 1155/16. (C. in C. S.A. 1141N/24 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

/S.L.66.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

S.L. 66.

Admiralty 1914/22. S.L. 66 estimated to be 10 hours late. Cdre's noon R/V for 24/2 was 313° "Lark", 96 miles. 3 ships sailed from St. Vincent to join convoy estimated to have been 85 miles ahead of convoy at 2100 GMT/23 have been so informed and instructed to join A.M./25. (C. in C. S.A. 1231N/24 to F.O.C.N.A., KENYA).

Minesweepers.

Admty 1355/22 and S.N.O. Simonstown's 1314B/22. NOBLE NORA, TRANSVALIA, EGELAND and JOHN WILLIAMSON are only to be taken up subject to satisfactory survey.
(D.M.S. 1236/24 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

S.S. CUBA.

CYCLAMEN and transport CUBA sailed 1530 G.M.T. speed 9.5. knots.
(N.C.S.O. Takoradi 1600/24).

Raider,
CUMBERLAND.
NEWCASTLE.
ASTURIAS.

GLASGOW's 0944Z/22. If there is definite evidence of ADMIRAL SCHEER in position reported, I consider it possible to break concentration of cruisers (? as proposed) Desirable to visit Falkland Is. in CUMBERLAND.
(a) CUMBERLAND has developed defects requiring 5½ days with one shaft out of action. During this period much needed self refit could be carried out.

(b) Opportunity to discuss defence matters with Governor.

(c) Consultation re W/T communication.

(d) Administrative arrangements re stores provisions and ammunition.

I consider for reason (a) visit should be made if dispersion of cruisers can be accepted. I propose to leave Plate 26/2 returning to Plate area about 9/3.
NEWCASTLE remains Plate area and ASTURIAS Rio De Janeiro area during my absence.
(R.A.S.A.D., 1643Z/24 to C. in C. S.A).

/Suspicious.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.2.1941. Monday.

FORREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Suspicious Vessel, HALCYON.

Master of Panama Ship HALCYON reports having sighted suspicious vessel 1700/9 in position 000° 31' S. 040° 05'W. about 1800 tons (details). Vessel closed the HALCYON to four miles then altered course North. No guns visible. Wireless operator reports that vessel made by W/T continued repetition letter D. (N.C.S.O. Bahia 1655/24 to Admty) See also 1345/25.

Whale Catchers.

My 1313Z/23 (THORSHAMMER and 6 catchers to leave 22/2) Following received from South Georgia. THORSHAMMER has not yet left for Fayal 2330/23. (N.O.I.C. Falklands 2131/24 to C. in C.S.A).

Mediterranean.

TERROR bombed and sunk.

A.467, 24/2. All possible steps to be taken to provide fighter protection for damaged warship. At present off Derna proceeding Tobruk. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 0149/24 to 202 Group). TERROR sank off Derna at 0400 to-day as result of damage from close misses in two bombing attacks. (a) At Benghazi on 22nd. (b) Off Derna evening 23rd. No casualties as far as known. Consider this information can be withheld from publication as enemy can have no knowledge of her sinking. (C. in C. Med. 1056/24 to Admty).

NORTHERN PRINCE.

N.O.i/c Simonstown's 1525B/20. Request this may be arranged or any other transhipment which would expedite arrival of the cargo of NORTHERN PRINCE in the canal area. Whole cargo and two pom-poms mounted in the ship urgently required. (C. in C. Med, 1150/24 to Admty).

French Fleet, Alexandria.

Reply to 1341/11 repayments to Godfroy's fleet. (Head of M. 1200/24 to C. in C. Med).

/Air.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Air Report. Tobruk bombed.

Operational.
1. 23/2. Enemy bombed Tobruk Harbour at dawn. No damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1236/24).

Destroyers' armaments.

Re removal of tubes and fitting of guns. (C. in C. Med 1258/24).

Operation M.C.8.

Situation report. My 1228/16. Operation M.C. 8 completed successfully. CLAN MACAULAY bombed by shadower and low level attack made on her one bomb passing through funnel. One Heinkel III was shot down and one damaged by Fulmars who were providing protection. Other attacking formations were evidently searching for convoy or battle fleet but failed to locate passing close astern.

Benghazi lack of A/A protection.

2. It has been necessary to withdraw all ships from Benghazi owing to inadequacy of A/A and lack of fighter protection which results in German aircraft being very little hampered on coast of Cyrenaica. 5 or 6 aircraft have been shot down including one torpedo aircraft by PEONY. At 0630/19, 9 aircraft attacked COVENTRY VOYAGER and Corvettes off Benghazi, no damage but near misses. 2 aircraft appeared to be in difficulties. Loss of TERROR reported in my 1056/24 must be in part attributed to lack of A/A defence which made Benghazi untenable. Army is now being supplied by land from Tobruk and this must continue so long as other commitments give free hand to enemy A/C is this region.

A.N.15.
A.S.16.

3. Convoys A.N. 15 and A.S. 16 arrived Piraeus and Egyptian ports 19th and 24/2 respectively.

4. Progress in clearing canal disappointing, separate signal is being made giving details.

Operation MAR 2.

5. Operation MAR 2 to capture Casteloritzo now in progress. HEREWARD and DECOY landing a Commando followed by ROSAURA with permanent garrison. GLOUCESTER and LADYBIRD in support. C.S.3 in charge.
(C;in C. Med. 1450/24 to Admty).

/Canal.....

MOST SECRET.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Canal Area.	Situation Report. (C. in C. Med 1550/24) See Mediterranean Volume.
Ships opening fire at aircraft.	H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1554/24.
W.S. 6.	Your 1646/16. Re high explosives in W.S.6. Confirmed. (D.T.S.D. 1633/24 to C. in C. Med).
B.S. 17 slow section.	1500 G.M.T./24. List of ships (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area 1633/24).
A.S. 15.	Convoy A.S. 15 arrived. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 1656/24 to Admty).

East Indies.

Italian Somaliland.	My 1906/23. Over 3000 prisoners and much material were captured 23/2 and it appears enemy is in full retreat. ENTERPRISE aircraft reconnoitred Lacte 19/2 but no shipping observed in anchorage or vicinity. (C. in C. E.I. 0420Z/24 to Admty).
B.N. 17.	Departures 0420Z/24 SHOREHAM YARRA with B.N. 17, 0440Z CHAKDINA for Perim patrol. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0445/24).
Enemy Units.	D/F bearings obtained of 2 German targets in Indian Ocean at 1557 and 2136 G.M.T/23. D/F conditions bad. Targets were probably within 600 miles Saya-de-Malha bank. Not known if bearings were both of the same unit. (C. in C. E.I. 0500Z/24 to Force V). Request your remarks on my 0500/24 re direction finding, being passed to you may be signalled to me. (C. in C. E.I. 0502/24 to Admty, Capt O.S. Sihgapore).

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.2.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd.)

Enemy Units. (contd.).	Your 0502/24. No indication that bearings are of same unit. Target at 2136 possibly in Eastern Mediterranean. Bearing at 1557 gives very poor fix probably in area indicated in your para. two. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 1031Z/24 to C.in C. E.I.). Your 0500Z/24. Bearings inconclusive but traffic suggests two different units, possibly raider and supply ship. (D.D.I.C. 1825/24 to C.in C. E.I.).
Convoy W.S.5.B.X.	List of ships. (N.C.S.O. Zanzibar 0855Z/24).
ENTERPRISE.	Mombasa left 24/2 0845 G.M.T. (N.O.I.C. Zanzibar 0915Z/24).
ANTENOR. Convoy B.M.4.	ANTENOR is to leave Aden A.M./27 and proceed to Karachi passing through (position) arrive (date). (ii) ANTENOR is to escort Karachi section of convoy BM 4, leaving Karachi (date) for Bombay, and is subsequently to escort BM 4 leaving Bombay (date) for the East. (C.in C. E.I. 1342Z/24).
Troopships for Australia.	C.in C. E.I. approval requested to proceed unescorted. (P.S.T.O. India 1045Z/24).
B.N.16.	Convoy B.N.16 arrived Suez 23/2 and 24/2. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1121/24).
Bombardment of Brava.	Operational Summary 259 up to 1200 hours 24/2 1941. 4. Kenya 23/2. A Glenn Martin co-operating with H.M. ships in bombardment of Brava confirmed buildings destroyed and fires started. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1234/24).
RANCHI	My 1514/23. On arrival at position "B" RANCHI is to proceed Durban so as to arrive p.m./27. (C.in C. E.I. 1348Z/24).
GLASGOW Force Z.	Your 1828Z/23 para. one. Approved for GLASGOW to rendezvous with Force Z. Further instructions follow. (D.O.D.(F) 1611/24 to C.in C. E.I.).

/ Shipping ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.2.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Shipping Bunkers. To avoid confusion to tanker programme most important that supplies should be made in accordance with nomination unless strong reasons exist for disregarding them. (D.T.D. 1721/24 to N.O.I.C. Aden).

AUSTRALIA. My 1828/23. On completion of fuelling AUSTRALIA is to proceed at 18 knots towards position 028° S. 045° E.
(C. in C. E.I. 1842Z/24 to Force V).
Note. This was cancelled see 0452Z/25).

CAPETOWN. ENTERPRISE. My 1828/23 and my 1350/23. On completion with fuel at Port Victoria Seychelles CAPETOWN is to proceed to rendezvous with W.S. 5 B.X. escorted by ENTERPRISE in position 006° 20'N. 055° 50' E. at 0900Z/27. Speed of advance of convoy is 16 knots.
(C. in C. E.I. 1856Z/24 to Force V. ENTERPRISE).

Messages passed on. My 1826/23 following messages have been recyphered to addressees C. in C. E.I. 1828/23, 1346/24 1842/24 and GLASGOW 1512/23.
(C. in C. E.I. 2030/24 to Adty).

DORSETSHIRE. CORNWALL. CANBERRA. LEANDER. AUSTRALIA. GLASGOW. Pending further report of Pocket Battleship following redispositions are to be effected. DORSETSHIRE to remain on E. Indies Station. She requires 10 days self refit. CORNWALL is allocated to W.S.6. and is to join convoy before Pocket Battleship can reach it, in the meantime remaining in Cape area. CANBERRA and LEANDER in company are to proceed toward Fremantle. AUSTRALIA should be employed in the Eastern area of the Indian Ocean so as to facilitate her return to Australia should the Japanese situation deteriorate. C. in C. East Indies 1828Z/23 GLASGOW may relieve DORSETSHIRE with Force Z if still desired.
(D.O.D.(F) 2307/24 to C. in C's E.I. S.A)

MOST SECRET.

24. 2. 1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Singapore Conference. — Your 1820/23. para. 5. Statement of forces available not yet received. Conference now considering this subject and early information essential. (C. in C. China, 0113/24, to Admty.)

HILDA COLLER. — Overdue British Steamer due 20/2, from Colombo. (N.C.S.O. Singapore, 0825Z/24.)

Reserve of Aviation Spirit. — Admty. 1614/20. 180 tons of M.T.B. fuel already carried in lighters as reserve. Consider additional 320 tons may be required. Preferable to hold in lighters than in shore dumps. Lighter required for this is earmarked for requisition when required. (N.O.I.C. Hong Kong, 1024/24, to Admty.)

TAIKOO. — Request approximate position of tug TAIKOO towing dredger from Singapore to Aden. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1238/24 to C. in C's China, E.I.)

ASAKA. — My 1141/19, Ministry of Marine informs me ASAKA left Lisbon for Bilbao 1600/23, and will arrive 0900/25. She will pass through following positions:-
(N.A., Tokyo, 1636/24, to Admty.)

N.E.I. Navy and German Raider. — Request you will inform C. in C. N.E.I. of presence of German Pocket Battleship in Indian Ocean, last reported near Seychelles 22/2. Report action Dutch are prepared to take to counter possibility of pocket battleship passing through Sunda Islands should she be proceeding to Pacific. (1 S.L. 2247/24, to C. in C. China.)

MOST SECRET.

24. 2. 1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S. Liaison Mission.

Your 1140/17. Mission formed. Proposed scope of work. (Controller 1112/24 to N.A. Washington) See Operations Volume.

VAN KINSBERGEN.

Leave Trinidad 26/2, and proceed to patrol in area enclosed in the following positions.
(a) Antigua (b) Galera point Trinidad. (c) 004° 30' N 045° 00' W. (d) 004° 30' N, 042° 00' W. Leave patrol so as to arrive Trinidad 3/3. For future reference this area will be known as O area. (C. in C. A.W.I.,1122/24, to VAN KINSBERGEN.)

AKAROA.

Your 1311/23, re speed of AKAROA, 10 knots correct due to steep zigzag day and night. (S.N.O.,Curacao, 1205/24, to Admty.)

B.H.X.113.
Escort.

Due to defective generators LACONIA unlikely to be able to sail for Bermuda for B.H.X.113. In view of state of LETITIA, urgent defects in RANPURA and need for adjusting Northern Patrol programme ref. 2235/23, from AUSONIA,no alternative can be arranged. Could escort for B.H.X. 113 be provided locally. (F.O. 3 B.S., 1409/24, to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Your 1409/24. It is hoped that PRINCE DAVID will be available for B.H.X. 113. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1742/24, to R.A.3.)

Mails.

Your 1732/22. No evidence, but Master of U.S. Ship EXETER stated that he knew several thousand bags had been carried by Portuguese ship. He will be further questioned on next arrival. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2123/24.)

MOST SECRET.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

GEORGE M. LIVANOS.	My 0302Z/9, Greek Vessel GEORGE M. LIVANOS due Aden 10/3 has following service cargo for Middle East. (A.C.N.B., Melbourne 0045/24, to C.in C. Med., etc.)
HERBORG.	Your 1936/21. HERBORG left Fremantle 1000Z/21, for Pladjoe. Ordered by W/T on 22/2, to proceed to Geraldton for re-routeing to Balik Papen but did not arrive. Further W/T instructions in plain language have been made. (A.C.N.B., 1232Z/24 to Admty).

New Zealand.

LEANDER.	New Zealand Gov. would like, if permissible, to issue to the press some account of operation by LEANDER. Request your remarks. (N.Z.N.B., 0453Z/24 to C.in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ARKADIA	Arrived Istanbul 23/2 ARKADIA. (Galata 1304/24.).
DELOS	Left Varna in ballast for Soviet Port (Varna 1717/24).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GIUSEPPINA	Departure in Ballast Constanza. (Varna 1717/24).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.2.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

MANISTEE (torpedoed 23/2). Following received MANISTEE course 000° 6 knots. Damage at present under control. (C.in C. W.A., 0029/24 to HEATHER).
Am proceeding with LEOPARD to MANISTEE's position expect to arrive about 0500. (CHURCHILL, 0110/24).
My 2320/23. HEATHER is to continue at best speed to make contact with MANISTEE reported steering 000°, 6 knots at 2245/23. (C.in C. W.A. 0404/24, to HEATHER).
At 0400 B.S.T. my p.c. and s. 058° 55' N. 021° 00' W.? 093° 7½ knots. (MANISTEE, 0405/24, to C.in C. W.A., etc.).
Report your condition and whether tugs could be of assistance.
(C.in C. W.A. 0429/24, to MANISTEE).

MANISTEE again attacked. Intercepted at 0623 G.M.T. D E 3 C K 3 3 3 3 position 58° 55 N., 20° 50 W., MANISTEE torpedoed. (Coastguard, Port Patrick, 0618/24, Lyness W/T., 0618/24).
Searching round position 058° 55' N. 020° 50' W.
(HEATHER, 1011/24 to C.in C. W.A.).
Report if contact has been made with MANISTEE or HEATHER.
(C.in C. W.A. 1044/24, to CHURCHILL).
Your 1044/24. Area searched from 0430 to 0800 contact not made. In view of your 0656/24 and your 0404/24 to HEATHER and poor visibility ship proceeded rendezvous. Am now hunting U-Boat. 59. 40 N., 20. 30 W. (weather).
(CHURCHILL, 1130/24, to C.in C. W.A.).

JONATHAN HOLT. 0140 JONATHAN HOLT (British, 4973 tons, in Convoy O.B.289) torpedoed position 061° 10' N. 011° 55' W.
(MALCOLM 0236/24 to C.in C. W.A.).
Two survivors. Ship has sunk.
(MALCOLM, 0636/24, to C.in C. W.A.).
Ships detached to stand by JONATHAN HOLT should report names when well clear of convoy.
(C.in C. W.A. 0720/24, to MALCOLM.).

/ HUNTINGDON. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.2.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

HUNTINGDON. (British, 10946 tons.) S.O.S. Torpedoed. 58° 09' N. 21° 16' W.
(HUNTINGDON, 0309/24).
HUNTINGDON torpedoed in 58° 09' N. 21° 16' W. at 0309. When MANISTAN is met report her condition and whether worth while sending tugs.
(C.in C. W.A., 0509/24, to HEATHER).
When you are convinced that all possible assistance has been rendered to MANISTEE you should proceed to render assistance to HUNTINGDON torpedoed in position 058° 09' N. 021° 15' W. at 0300/24.
(C.in C. W.A., 1049/24, to HEATHER).
Your 1011/24. If nothing found by dark tonight Monday proceed to search for HUNTINGDON or survivors torpedoed in 056° 09' N. 021° 16' W. at 030/24. Report movements.
(C.in C. W.A., 1735/24, to HEATHER).

MANSEPOOL (British, 4894 tons). In Convoy O.B.289. Second ship torpedoed in position 061° 12' N. 012° 36' W. Ship afloat. Searching with A/S ship escort with star shell.
(MALCOLM, 0456/24, to C.in C. W.A.).
My 0456. MANSEPOOL torpedoed in 061° 12' N. 012° 36' W. PETUNIA standing by with 17 survivors. Possibility of salvage good.
(MALCOLM, 0624/24 to C.in C. W.A. etc.).
Request you will sail SALVONIA and SEAMAN through Minches to 61° 12' N. 12° 36' W. to assistance of torpedoed ship.
Escort will be provided outside Minches.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0810/24, to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown).
My 0810/24 name of torpedoed ship is MANSEPOOL, good possibility of salvage. PETUNIA standing by. SALVONIA is to remain in company with SEAMAN.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1207/24, to SALVONIA SEAMAN).
Tugs SALVONIA and SEAMAN sailed from Campbeltown at 0900, in accordance with my 0810/24. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1215/24 to C.in C. W.A.).
Your 1155 (No trace in War Reg.) am proceeding. Have found steamship MANSEPOOL torpedoed and abandoned position 061° 07' N. 012° 47' W.
(NORTHERN REWARD, 1533/24 to S.O. Trawlers, Northern Patrol.

/ BRITISH GUNNER ....

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

BRITISH GUNNER — (British tanker, 6894 tons). (In Convoy O.B. 289) SSSS de GKR. Presumed BRITISH GUNNER been attacked by submarine position 61. 07 N., 13. 10 W. 0450/24.
(Wick Radio, 0501/24).
The following intercepted. Ship torpedoed, presumed BRITISH GUNNER in position 061° 07' N. 013° 10' W.
(A.C.W.A., 0812/24, to MALCOLM).
BRITISH GUNNER torpedoed in engine room stopped with crew on board. PETUNIA now standing by BRITISH GUNNER. Position 061° 15' N. 013° 29' W. Salvage prospects good. (MALCOLM, 1038/24, to C.in C. W.A.).
Proceed in company as soon as ready to assistance of BRITISH GUNNER in 61° 15' N. 13° 29' W. at 1038 today. PETUNIA standing by. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1450/24, to RESTIVE, PRUDENT.)
Have contact with BRITISH GUNNER torpedoed and abandoned. Am searching for survivors and GRAMPIAN in 061° 12' N. 013° 15' W.
(NORTHERN REWARD, 1726/24).
Sailed tugs RESTIVE and PRUDENT from Greenock at 2000 in accordance with my 1450/24 routed through Minches.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2101/24, to C.in C. W.A.)

GRAMPIAN — Ship signal letters GTRN (GRAMPIAN) (Steam Trawler) torpedoed in 061° 12' N. 013° 15' W. at 0735. (BURNHAM, 0752/24, to A.C.W.A.).
Your 1115 have not contacted GRAMPIAN. Am remaining in vicinity.
(NORTHERN REWARD, 2140/24, to S.O. N.P.T.)
Note. - GRAMPIAN was afterwards found to be identical with the tanker S.S. BROVIG, q.v. Confusion arose owing to a corrupt call sign.
(D.S. 540).

S.S. S.S. BROVIG. — Norwegian, 9718 tons, in Convoy O.B.289.
My 0904/24, Tanker BROVIG (SSSC) position 061° (?04') N. 014° 24' W. badly holed forward, capable of steaming but no steering gear, prospect of salvage very good if tug can be sent. MALLOW with corvettes endeavouring to save this ship, BRITISH GUNNER and MANSEPOOL. Tugs urgently required. (MALCOLM, 1328/24 to A.C.W.A.).

/ O.B. 289. ....

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

O.B.289. Four ships O.B. 289 torpedoed,
JONATHAN HOLT, MANSEPOOL, BRITISH GUNNER,
One Tanker.
DOUGLAS continuing with convoy.
PETUNIA standing by BRITISH GUNNER.
MALCOLM, BURNHAM, MALLOW, CLARKIA searching for U-Boat which attacked ½ hour before daylight. My position 061° 04' N. 013° 33' W. two attacks delivered starboard side. Consider at least two U-boats attacking.
(MALCOLM, 0900/24, to C.in C. W.A., etc.).
Take Corvette under your orders and continue to search for U-boat until darkness then set in accordance with (? C.in C. W.A.)
"Meet H.X.109" signal 1526/23.
U-boat(s) final attack on convoy 0750/24 in position 061° 04' N. (? 013°) 42' W.
MALCOLM, BURNHAM proceeding to rejoin C.B. 289.
(MALCOLM, 1152/24, to MALLOW).
Proceeding with BURNHAM in company to rejoin O.B.289. My p.c. and s. are 061° 05' N. 014° 15' W. 276°, 15 knots.
All Star Shells expended.
(MALCOLM, 1204/24, to C.in C. W.A.).
O.B.289 dispersed 2000/24. Search abandoned best to save 3 damaged ships keeping C.in C. Western Approaches and N.O.I.C. Greenock informed. Tugs RESTIVE and PRUDENT being sent. Hope to see you with H.X.109 26/2.
(MALCOLM, 1947/24, to MALLOW).
N.O.I/C's Greenock's 1207/24, 3 ships torpedoed and salvage prospects good:
MANSEPOOL in 061° 12' N. 012° 28' W. at 0355/24 BRITISH GUNNER in 060° 15' N. 013° 29' W. at 0450/24 O.C. BROVIG in 061° 04' N. 014° 20' W. at 1328/24
MALLOW is in charge of Corvette(s) PETUNIA and CLARKIA in the vicinity damaged ships.
(MALCOLM 2139/24).

/ Use of P.L. ...

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

Use of P.L. — Ref. HABLSTEE's 2145/23 (MANISTEE), MALCOLM's 0258/24 (JONATHAN HOLT), and BURNHAM's 0752/24 (GRAMPIAN). It is suggested that submarine reports should be made in plain language as in C.S.I. article 242. This would enable all other ships approaching the area to be warned more quickly. (C.in C. H.F., 1552/24 to A.C.W.A.).

ESTRELLANO (torpedoed 9/2) DAGMAR I (bombed 9/2) — Arrived DEPTFORD with 48 survivors ESTRELLANO and DAGMAR I. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1325/24, to C.in C. W.A.).

SCOTTISH STANDARD (torpedoed 22/2). — H.M.S. MONTGOMERY has been detached to land 39 survivors including 4 casualties at Oban rejoining convoy after. (WANDERER 0141/24). Have 39 survivors on board 4 hospital cases 2 very serious. Request MONTGOMERY be detailed as soon as possible. Propose landing them Oban. (MONTGOMERY 2150/24 to WANDERER).

Submarines Reported.

0419	About 60° N. 11° W.	Indefinite positions (D.S.538).
1333	51.30 N., 12° W.	
0209	59.30 N., 20° W.	
0428	Area of about 55° N., 19° W.	
0511	Area of about 50° N., 20° W.	
0629	" " " " " " "	
0650	" " " " " " "	
0811	" " " " " " "	
0841	" " " " " " "	
1027	" " " " " " "	

1949 57.59° N., 9-14° W., position indefinite (D.S. 539).

2224 55.30 N., to 56.30 N., 18-22° W., indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 539).

/ 1033 ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.2.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

1033. An enemy submarine has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit. (D.D.I.C. 1049/24 to Areas B, etc.).
My 1049/24. It is probable that formation reported was S.C.22 convoy.
(D.D.I.C. 1111/24 to ANTELOPE, ACHATES, GEORGETOWN, SNOWDROP.).
By D/F at 1033/24 it is probable that S.C.22 was reported by U/Boat in about 60° N. 15° W.
(C.in C. W.A. 1112/24 to DIDO, INGLEFIELD).

1810. Following has been read. Submarine Report. 60. 20 N., 25.50 W. ELISABETH LENSEN submarine sighted. (Burnham Radio, 1810/24).

1812 There are indications that S.C.22 and or O.B.289 are being shadowed by U/B's.
(D.D.I.C. 1812/24).

1930. One Submarine bearing 360° distance 2 miles course 045°.
My position 298° 61° N., 13° W., 14 miles.
(NORTHERN REWARD, 1930/24).

1800 Admiralty message A.P. position 60° 26' N. 25° 20' W. at 1700/24/2 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1931/24).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

German.
2. 20 miles of 61° 10' N. 13° 50' W. may follow O.B. 289 to westward.
1. 40 miles of 60° N. 14° W. may shadow S.C.22 or move north to O.B.289.
3. 60 miles of 59° N. 21° W.
1. 60 miles of 56° 30' N. 19° W. may be northbound.
1. West of Brest homeward bound.

Italian.
2. 90 miles of 59° N. 16° W.
1. 30 miles of 51° N. 16° W. en route Bordeaux.
1 or 2 in Bay of Biscay.
Possibly 1 nationality unknown off Bissagos Islands.
(D.D.I.C. 1407/24).

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

South Atlantic.

1900/23 — CLEMATIS attacked contact 1900/23 in position 011° 56' N. 017° 51' W. (C.in C. S.A., 0145 N/24, to Admty., MALAYA, CILICIA, etc.).

THUNDERBOLT attacked by CANTON. — At 0830 G.M.T. in 053° 55' N. 026° 49' W. sighted Merchant Ship similar to VANDYCK steering 230° speed 15. Challenged but vessel opened fire with several guns. Accurate fire forced THUNDERBOLT to dive. Am endeavouring to Shadow.
(THUNDERBOLT, 0830/24, to Admty.).
Engaged and believed hit submarine in position 054° 19' N. 026° 43' W. at 0745N.
(CANTON, 0845N/24, to Admty.).
Your 0845N/24. This might be THUNDERBOLT.
(A.C.W.A., 1301/24, to CANTON).
At 0800 B.S.T./24 Fr. S/M SURCOUF was near 054° 20' N. 028° W. and THUNDERBOLT near 054° 36' N. 025° 45' W. Both proceeding on surface course 225° for Halifax.
(C.in C. W.A., 1338/24, to CANTON).
Your 0830. This is CANTON.
(Duty Captain 1356/24 to THUNDERBOLT).
Following has been made to THUNDERBOLT.
Your 0830. This is CANTON. 1356/24.
(D.S.O. 1411/24 to C.in C. W.A. F.O.(S)).
Your 0845 N/24 and my 1301/24, this is THUNDERBOLT.
(C.in C. W.A., 1401/24, to CANTON).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation PYA. M.T.B's from Harwich carried out an anti-E.boat operation last night between Lowestoft and Harwich.

EXMOOR sunk. EXMOOR who had been escorting Convoy F.N. sank at about 2115 today after explosion which caused a fierce fire, off Lowestoft. She was apparently torpedoed by an E.boat.

Dover shelled. Five shells were fired at Dover today. Superficial damage was caused to the M.T.B. Base.

HIPPER. The HIPPER class cruiser was sighted in dry dock at Brest again this morning.

U-boat attack on Convoy O.B.290. DIALA in Convoy O.B. 290 was torpedoed today in the N.W. Approaches in 55° 50' N. 14° 0' W. S.S. COPELAND reported being chased in 61° 2' N. 19° 23' W.

British Air Activity.

51 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked the docks at Brest last night, the HIPPER cruiser being the main objective. Aircraft of Coastal Command also attacked the cruiser.

Specially equipped aircraft escorted Convoys S.C.22 and O.B. 290 last night.

/ Dawn R.C. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Dawn R.C. for the two enemy destroyers sighted yesterday and expected to pass Gris Nez at dawn was blank, but as the result of a report by Dover R.D.F. a further R.C. was carried out and 2 destroyers were sighted at 1203 off Calais. An attack is being organised.

Six Blenheim bombers of Coastal Command escorted by 34 fighters attacked a convoy of 5 vessels off Dunkirk this afternoon. No hits were obtained.

Enemy Air Activity.

Trawlers ILFRACOMBE and SCARBOROUGH report being bombed and cannon-shelled on 20/2 whilst fishing in 52° 15' N. 11° 45' W. The latter was towed back to harbour.

Trawlers GRACKLE and DANDARA report being attacked by a F.W. aircraft supported by two fighters, at 1530/23 15 miles S. by E. of the Fastnet. The mate of DANDARA was killed, but the vessels were not damaged. The F.W. was shot down.

No attacks on shipping were reported today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation P.W.5.	3 M.T.B's last night laid mines off the Belgian coast.
Operation ZME 20.	PLOVER laid mines off the S.E. coast of Ireland last night.
Enemy mining.	Minelaying by 20 enemy aircraft last night is suspected off Liverpool Bay and in the Milford Haven area.

Sailing barge GLOBE was mined and sunk at 1800 today off Garrison Point, Sheerness.

Mines were detonated today off North Shields, Harwich, in Swansea and Humber areas and in Thames Estuary.

Liverpool was closed at 0001 today and Falmouth at 0014.

Sunderland was opened this morning.
Swansea was opened to ships not fitted with I.C. engines this afternoon.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Mar 2"	Kastelorizo Island was attacked and occupied by Naval forces today. A Commando landed before dawn in ships' boats from DECOY and HEREWARD. Opposition was apparently slight. LADYBIRD was slightly damaged by heavy air raid.
Mining of Suez Canal.	SARNA (minesweeper) was mined and sunk whilst sweeping in the Canal today.

/ Time taken for stores ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Time taken for stores to reach Malta.

C.in C. Medn. points out that the length of time for stores to reach Malta is not realised in U.K. All stores must go round Cape for transhipment in Egypt. Owing to congestion in Egyptian ports and irregularity of Malta convoys at least 2 months elapse between arrival of stores in Egypt and arrival of same stores in Malta.

Air attack on Tripoli.

Wellingtons attacked Tripoli harbour this evening dropping over 13 tons of bombs and report that a ship was set on fire near the Customs Wharf, two probable hits on shipping in the harbour, and damage caused to the port.

Air attacks on Malta.

There was a succession of reconnaissances and fighter patrols by German aircraft over Malta today. Two moored Sunderlands in St. Paul's Bay were machine gunned but not hit. Two or three enemy aircraft were shot down.

Air attack on Tobruk.

Tobruk was bombed this evening and a tanker was set on fire; the fire was brought under control.

East Indies.

Raider

Bearings from Simonstown, Durban and Kranji obtained at 2138 G.M.T./24 indicated an enemy surface unit on a line Achin Head to Mauritius, probably midway.

Mogadishu occupied.

Our troops occupied Mogadishu today, 200 Allied seamen were recovered at Berbera.

MOST SECRET.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

ANJA.

Your 1159/24/2. ANJA may proceed to Petsamo via Skopen Fiord. Warn Master that if found off that route on this or subsequent voyages he will be sent to Kirkwall.
(D.E.W.D. 1003/25 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

Procedure for Entry into Minor Defended Ports.

Reference A.M.657A/1/1. Procedure for entry into Minor Defended Ports given in Recognition Manual S.P.02220(2) para.71 is to be brought into force at 0001/2/3.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1638/25 A Message 182.AZ).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Orkneys Loop Systems.

Your 1148/4/2. Cable ship required to effect necessary repairs to loop, and relaying of number 8. I consider that the necessity for repairs to and completion of the loop system in the Orkneys is urgent.
(A.C.O.S. 1115/25).
Your 1115/25. Cable ship is due to arrive Orkneys about 9/3 for repairs to loops. Question of completing whole loop system is under consideration.
(D.A/S.W. 1916/25 to A.C.O.S.)

DELUGE.

At 1130/25. (D.C. 1207/25).
At 2330/25. (D.C.2332/25).

Faroes A/A Defences.

Recital of events since 7/2.
Requested that requirement may be included by the War Office in their memorandum to the Chiefs of Staff on the allocation of A.A. gun defences from the March production, and in the meantime, that the arrangements made by A.C.O.S. should be accepted and obtain until other defences can be provided.

/War

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

Faroes A/A Defences. (Contd.)

War Office 1822/24. The guns are at present manned by personnel from the Fleet who are required to rejoin their ships as soon as possible. Requested that, until other arrangements are made, the possibility of Lovat Scouts manning the guns may be examined.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1706/25 to Air Ministry, War Office, A.E. Cd., and F.Cd.
Your 1930/24. Requirement for A.A. defence will be considered by C.O.S. Committee with a view to provision being made from March production.

2. In the meanwhile War Office are investigating possibility of the 2 pounder Vickers being manned by local military with the object of releasing Fleet personnel as soon as possible.
(D. of L.D. 1710/25).

Movements.

SUNFISH.

Intend to sail SUNFISH passing Switha Gate at 0830/25 escorted by SOUTHERN SHORE westward of Orkneys and Shetlands to position 061° (?30') N., 002° (?30)W thence routed northward.
(A.C.O.S. 0034/25 and 0049/25).
Sailed escorted by SOUTHERN SHORE.
(A.C.O.S. 0822/25 and 0826/25).

MISTRAL.

Sailed in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 112
23. (F.O.Iceland 0125/25).

PEGASUS.

My 1815/20. PEGASUS is to return to Belfast and not Clyde.
(C.in C. W.A. 1058/25).
My 1815/20. Cancel sailing of PEGASUS further signal will be made.
(C.in C. W.A. 1314/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Escort for REPULSE.

Your 1323/23. Anticipate 5 destroyers available as A/S Escort without denuding mercantile convoys. This includes one from R.A.(M). Consider 8 as minimum acceptable.
(C.in C. W.A. 1232/25).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler lines tonight. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1356/25).

VESLA KARI HONNINGSVAAD. (Jan Mayen).

(Group Omitted) CF (?) and VESLA KARI have arrived Akureyri having developed minor defects owing to stress of weather. It is anticipated they will sail in company tomorrow.
(F.O.Iceland, 1410/25).

Submarines.

Positions at 0800/26 and movements for the following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1621/25 and 1706/25).

ACHATES.

My 1246/16 Shortage destroyers 4th Escort Group, and Admty 1612/24 refit, etc., BRILLIANT. Propose to retain ACHATES until relieved by BRILLIANT.
(Capt: (D) Greenock 1831/25).

TRIBUNE TAKU.

Proceed direct to pass through following respective positions. Convoy to south of you may make drastic alteration in course to northward or disperse.
(F.O.S. 1951/25 to TRIBUNE, TAKU).

DUNEDIN.

It has been decided that DUNEDIN is to remain under the South Atlantic Command for the present.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2212/25).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

O.21.
O.23.
LA MOQUEUSE.

F.C.(S) 1126/25 and my 1451/24 para.(B).
Request you will sail LA MOQUEUSE, O.21. O.23 1900/26 so as to arrive Longships by 2000/27.
(S.S. 2359/25 to N.O.I.C. Holyhead).

Operations.

Operation N.C.

Operation N.C. will be carried out zero t time 2145.
(V.A.Dover, 1408/25).

EXMOOR torpedoed by E/Boat.

Sailed EXMOOR and SHEARWATER at 1349.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1410/25).
My 1708. EXMOOR and SHEARWATER are to part company with F.N. on passing Sheringham Buoy and proceed at SHEARWATER best speed to meet F.S.21.
(C.in C. Nore, 2156/25 to EXMOOR, SHEARWATER).
Am picking up survivors from EXMOOR at 5 buoy. Approximate position 052° 27N 001° 56'E.
(SHEARWATER 2200/25 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).
Proceeding Yarmouth with survivors. Medical assistance required. 1 trawler proceeding Lowestoft with 5.
(SHEARWATER 2230/25 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth).
E.T.A. 2315. Request Deluge (? Doctor) about midnight.
(SHEARWATER 2245/25 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth).
Is message 2245 understood?
SHEARWATER 2315/25 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth).
Ship reported on fire at 2110 in 52° 28'N. 2° 4'E.
(C.in C. Nore, 2205/25 to CAMPBELL).
Your 2303. EXMOOR burned fiercely and sank.
(SHEARWATER 2340/25 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth).
After landing survivors proceed by Q.Z.S. 172 to meet F (?S) 21 due at Outer Dowsing 1130/26.
(C.in C. Nore, 2350/25 to SHEARWATER).
E/Boat(s) probably still in vicinity.
(C.in C. Nore, 2359/25 to WOOLSTON, VORTIGERN, etc.)
Reports so far received indicate that EXMOOR sank quickly near 052° 28'N., 002° 04'E. at about 2115/25 after explosion which caused fierce fire.
Survivors are being landed at Yarmouth by SHEARWATER and COMMANDER EVANS. Subsequen report from N.O.I.C. Yarmouth indicates the probable presence of E/Boats.
(C.in C. Nore, 0110/26 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

My 0234. Enemy retired to eastward. (WOOLSTON 0314/26).

Channel Patrols.

Trawler Patrols in Portsmouth Approach Channels. 3 M.L's Patrol West of Portland Bill.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1507/25).
C.in C. Portsmouth's 1507/25. 3 M/L's will not patrol west of Portland Bill.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1920/25 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

Dover Shelled.

One shell fell in Dover at 1247 and four to seaward of the harbour between 0851 and 1005 today. Superficial damage by blast to M.T.B Base. No casualties. (V.A.Dover, 1839/25).

Operation Q.A.

Operation Q.A. will be carried out tonight from 2300 to 0030/26.
(C.in C. Nore, 2153/25 to Destroyers).

British Air Activity.

Bombing Restriction.

F.S.A.4. Request S.B.R. 30 miles either side of a line joining 61°15'N., 003° 00'W., and 063° 30'N., 000° 15'E. from 1200/25 to 1200/26.
(C.in C. H.F. 0041/25 to H.Q.C.C.)
My 0041/25. Amend to read from 1200/25 to 2200/26. Request T.B.R. in area North of 063° N., and East of 001° W. from 0400/27 until further signal.
(C.in C. H.F. 1227/25 to H.Q.C.C.)

MOST SECRET.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

A/S Escort.

Expect A/S escort 1 (one) Anson at 0815 till 1800 today.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0146/25 to WANDERER etc).

Patrols.

The following patrols are being flown today.
STAB, FAIR, UNST, S.A.2., S.A.3.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0820/25).

Patrol "Sleeve" being flown by one A/C.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1400/25).

Attack on Enemy Convoys.

Three Beauforts with torpedoes taking off 1130 from Wick to attack 4 M/Vs. and two escort vessels reported by A/C in 61° 51'N., 4° 5'E. course 020° at 0950/25.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1110/25).
My 1110/25. Amend position to read 61° N., 4° 50'E. Course 020° 5 knots average tonnage 5 to 6000 unladen.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1216/25).

Falmouth Approach. Channel. Request for Fighter Patrol.

To avoid air attack movements of shipping in Western Channel in daylight are reduced to a minimum.

(2) Falmouth presents special difficulty. Swept Channel Q.Z.S.180 is 17 miles long and through an area definitely mined by the enemy. Accurate navigation is essential and therefore ships must pass through it in daylight. For at least 2 hours after sunrise and 2 hours before sunset certain days ships will be moving in this channel.

(3) Request favourable consideration may be given to provision of a fighter patrol over this channel when it is considered that number or value of ships justify it.

(4) If agreed, request for such patrol would be made on each occasion.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1152/25 to H.Q.F.C.)

MOST SECRET.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Attacks on Brest. Boulogne.

Night 24/25 Feb. 28 Wellingtons, 3 Stirlings, 16 Hampdens, and 6 Manchesters attacked the Docks at Brest, HIPPER cruiser being main objective. Weather conditions were good, but extreme darkness made it difficult to identify cruiser and prevented observation of possible direct hits. Many bombs were dropped some of a very heavy calibre in the target area and the cruiser was straddled in all directions. One Wellington attacked Docks and shipping at Boulogne.
(H.Q.B.C. 1551/25).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy W.N.Odd.

Fighter aircraft have been despatched to MUSTER.
(Liverpool 0955/25).

Trawlers ILFRACOMBE and SCARBOROUGH attacked 20/2.

Trawlers ILFRACOMBE and SCARBOROUGH fishing in 52° 15'N., 11° 45'W. at 1050/20 report being attacked by four engined aircraft. Ships bombed and cannon-shelled. No casualties. Engines of SCARBOROUGH unserviceable and was towed back to Harbour.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1040/25).

GRACKLE
DANDARA
F.W. shot down.

Trawlers GRACKLE and DANDARA attacked 1530/23 15 miles S. by E. from Fastnet.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1041/25).
My 1041/25. Both were attacked by Focke Wulfe supported by 2 fighters. Focke Wulfe shot down in sea. Mate of DANDARA killed.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1140/26).

MOST SECRET.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

KINGSTON HILL. (Bombed 22/2).	Cancel my 0045/25. KINGSTON HILL is to be beached at Glumaig Bay, Stornoway. Salvage Vessel (?) RANGER will take over on arrival. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1126/25). KINGSTON HILL in tow of ST. OLAVES and THAMES escorted by PICOTEE arrived 1600/25 Requires pumping out which will be done by THAMES. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1622/25). When KINGSTON HILL pumped out tow her to Glumaig Bay Stornoway and beach her alongside BROVIG. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1945/25).
ELIZABETH MARIE (Bombed and sunk 14/2).	ELIZABETH MARIE, straggler from S.C.21 bombed and sunk. (D.T.D. 1525/25).
Convoy F.N.Odd.	One enemy aircraft shadowing an odd numbered F.N.Convoy South of Tyne in 52° 38'N., 2° 1'E. Course 018 speed 9 knots. (VORTIGERN 2206/25).

Mining.

Liverpool.	Port of Liverpool closed due to suspected enemy minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0001/25).
Falmouth.	Port of Falmouth closed owing to enemy mines. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0014/25).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Z.M.E.20.	Operation Z.M.E.20 completed. (PLOVER 0429/25).
Operation P.W.5.	Arrived. M.T.B's 31,32 and 34 at 0844. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0858/25).
Sunderland.	Port open. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 0925/25).
GLOBE. sunk.	Sailing Barge GLOBE mined and sunk at 1800/25 approx. 079° 6100 yards from Garrison Point Sheerness. Believed no survivors. Vessel was wooden and had no engine. (C.In C. Nore, 1029/26).
Operation G.T.	Arrived 2220/24. M.G.B.46 in tow BURWELL. (C.in C. Plymouth 1222/25).
Operation P.W.5.	Following received from BEEHIVE begins My 0947/24. P.W.5. completed as ordered in position 51 degrees 7' 18 seconds north 2 ° 25' 10" East in clear but very dark weather. No enemy ships seen. 0945/25. (C.in C. Nore, 1329/25).
S.N.68B.	My 1457/20. For "4th March" read 9th March". (C.in C. H.F. 1524/25 to R.A.M.L.)
North Shields	At 1400/25 two mines detonated by S.A. sweep. Particulars. (P.M./S.O. North Shields 1530/25, 1550/25 1055/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.).

Harwich.	Two mines detonated simultaneously by S.A.gear at 1312/25. Particulars. (F.O.I.C.Harwich, 1533/25).
Swansea.	My 2209/20. Ships not fitted with I.C. engines may now enter and leave Swansea. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1548/25). Particulars of mines exploded 25/2. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1825/25).(1827/25).
Spurn Point.	One acoustic mine exploded at 0944/25. Particulars. (F.O.Humber, 1830/25).
Gap A.	Minesweeping Summary No.70 dated 19/2. para.9. It is hoped that area to Eastward of Gap A. will be re-searched at a very early date, as this is only passage used by submarines at present proceeding to and from patrol in North Sea. (F.O.S. 1924/25).
Thames Estuary.	S.A.mine detonated at 1328/25. Particulars. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 2150/25).
East Coast. Mine Barrage.	Your 1542/25. M/OD 2001/41 of 17 January 1941 was taken to be a plain statement of fact not requiring a reply. So far as Rosyth command is concerned I would suggest, between the Gap B and C, Western line referred to in paragraph two (B) of M /OD 2001/41 of 17 January 1941 be laid to Westward of line B.S.22 and B.S.23 and not to Westward of "declared area" itself as this would restrict still more the narrow lane of clear water, between barrier and coast. (C.in C. Rosyth 2335/25 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Surface Units.

By D/F at 1917/24 and 1937/24 G.M.T. one or possibly two enemy surface units within 200' of 27° N., 44° W.
(D.D.I.C. 0035/25).

SCHARNHORST . GNEISENAU.

It is reported graded C.2. that SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU left Oslo Fjord first week in February and have not passed southwards through Belts up to 20th February.

Comment. It appears probable these two ships did proceed to Oslo end of January. (Vide my 1751/25.1.41) possibly to avoid ice conditions in Baltic.
(D.D.I.C. 1210/25).

Two Destroyers.

My 2006/24. Dawn reconnaissance was blank. At 1032 Dover R.D.F. reported two vessels 343° Gris Nez 2.5 miles course 04' degrees. 11 group and Admi alty informed by telephone. 11 Group on request carried out further reconnaissanc reporting two destroyers 360 degrees Calais 3.5 miles at 1203. 16 Group and Admiralty informed by telephone. R.D.F. Plot faded at a position 042 degrees Gris Nez 9.2 miles. 16 Group inform me that an attack is being organised.
(V.A.Dover, 1232/25).

Brest.

At 2145/24 a ship of about 10,000 tons, believed to be a Cruiser, anchored off the harbour in 48° 21'N., 4° 29'W. A/C report.
(H.Q.B.C. 1551/25).

Aircraft reports at 1515/25. Enemy vessel fired five star cartridge three times, in 55° 26'N., 7° E.
(C.in C. Nore, 2046/25).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.8.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

Suspect List.

My 1648/16 and 1813/16. Suspect list is separate from Category B and ships may sail in convoy. List will be revised as necessary. (D.T.D.) (2000/25 to N.C.S.O's Halifax, Bermuda, Freetown, Gibraltar.)

Coastal Convoys.

E.N.77.

0400/25. Escorts. 20 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0415/25). List. (1108/25). SLEIPNER to reinforce escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 0821/25). Non-sailings from Methil. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1533/25). Positions 0001/26. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1610/25 ULLSWATER 2149/25).

F.N.17.

M.L.105 sailed with. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 0901/25). Sailed 0835/25, 35 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1115/25). Sailings. (N.C.S.O. Harwich, 1434/25). List and destinations. (N.C.S.O.Thames, 1504/25). Ships from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1715/25). 9 ships, 5 trawlers and 1 drifter joined at Outer Dowsing. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1904/25 to WOOLSTON, VORTIGERN).

F.S.19.

Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 0933/25. Position. 36 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1044/25). Arrived, exceptions. (1913/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

E.N.C.76.	Destinations. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1030/25).
F.S.19.T.	Asking for names of ships. (D.T.D.1051/25) Reply. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1644/25).
Codes.	Allotment of permanent code words to regular group sailings. (D.N.I. 1148/25 to C.in C. Plymouth).
F.N.17, F.N.18. F.S.21, F.S.19.	Positions. (C.in C. Nore, 1200/25).
F.N.16.	List. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1215/25) E.T.A. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1610/25). Humber ships, arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1645/25). To join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1736/25).
F.S.18.	My 2049/24. GARONNE now arrived. (N.C.S.O.Thames, 1348/25).
5 M/V's.	Ex-Dartmouth. E.T.A. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1507/25).
F.S.21.	Sailed 77 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1538/25 1738/25) Position (C.in C. Rosyth, 1610/25 EXMOOR and SHEARWATER as additional escort (C.in C. Nore, 1708/25). 5 ships from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1710/25, C.in C. Rosyth 1905/25). List and destinations. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1734/25). Additional escorts. (C.in C. Nore, 2331/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

W.M.89.	Positions. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1610/25, HUGH WALPOLE, 2005/25).
Iceland.	Sailings. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1745/25).
3. M/V's.	Amending. 2223/24. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1913/25).
W.N.U.90.	1800/25, unescorted, 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 2108/25). List. (2113/25).
F.N. and F.S.	Escorts. Amending. 1832/23. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2202/25).
Dartmouth.	Berths for large M/V's full, proposals. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 2207/25). Concur, (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1147/26).

Ocean Convoys.

H.X.107.	HARMALA arrived. (N.O.I.C. Barry, 0701/25) SAN AMADO arrived. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 0905/25).
H.G.53.	COXWOLD arrived. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 0905/25) DAGO arrived (N.O.I.C. Barry 1124/25). VANELLUS arrived (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1845/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.C.291.	2330/27. 25. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0953/25).
B.H.X.110.	CITY OF OXFORD returned, lost convoy. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1158/25).
H.X.108U.	Arrived 0900/25 less REDGATE. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1029/25). REDGATE arrived(1210/25).
O.G.	7 Turkish ferry boats to go in next O.G.Convoy. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1300/25).
O.G.54.	List and Destinations. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1430/25). Sailed 7 ships, (1431/25). Escorts. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1700/25).
H.X.112.	C.S.1. in NORFOLK to [illegible] (date). (C.in C. H.F. 1436/25).
H.X.108.	E.T.A. (WITCH, 1445/25 to A.C.W.A.)
S.C.21.	8 hours late at R/V. 5 stragglers. ELIZABETH MARIE, streggler bombed and sunk. Not yet reported ALNMOOR and BELCREST. (D.T.D. 1525/25 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

H.G.54. Ships joining from Funchal. (See North Atlantic).

O.G.C. 54. Escort. 7 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1541/25).

S.L.S.65. Destroyers to meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1705/25)

S.C.24. Destinations. (D.T.D. 1753/25).

O.B.290. Being shadowed. (See U/Boat Campaign.)

O.B.291. 0530/28. unescorted. 1. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 2000/25).

Military Convoys.

T.C.9. Your 1843/24. Expect to join T.C.9 about 1300Z tomorrow.
(MISTRAL 0036Z/25 to C.in C. W.A.)
My 0129/24. EDINBURGH, INGLEFIELD, ECHO and ECLIPSE are to part company with convoy T.C.9. in position (R) and return to Scapa.

(ii) AURORA is to continue with Convoy to Clyde.
(C.in C. H.F. 2259/25).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

Military Convoys. (contd).

Troop Transports.	Following troop transports are due in U.K. shortly. (D. of S.T. 0118/25).
S.S. CITY OF PARIS etc.	Adty 1727/22. 1809/23. 1357/24. None to all addressees. (1) A/S Escort. BRIGHTON BROADWAY fro Liverpool. ROCKINGHAM MANSFIELD to R/V from Londonderry. S.O. ROCKINGHAM. (2) Request you will sail ships accordingly. (3) R/V to be arranged by F.O.I.C. Liverpool. (4) Orders will be given for destroyers to meet S.L.S. 65. (C. in C. W.A. 1705/25).
RIMUTAKA.	Intend sailing S.S. RIMUTAKA escorted by HARVESTER at 1330/27 speed 11½ knots to comply with Admiralty's 1635/22. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1758/25).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

Small Sunken Vessel.	My 1105/15. Vessel was subsequently observed to sink in approx. position 190° 62 D. buoy 2.2. miles. Depth of water 18 fathoms. (F.O. Humber 1035/25).
0.10.	Sub. 0.10 reports: Starboard engine defects. Convoy has gone ahead. I have escort. Proceeding to Tobermory to effect repairs. My position 057° 51'N. 006° 36' W. at 1030/25. (S.7 1306/25).
OCEAN PEARL.	My 1159/25. M/D OCEAN PEARL returned to Fraserburgh. Engine trouble. (R.N.O. Fraserburgh 1514/25).
OTAIO.	(British, 10,298 Tons) Received following from Master at 1612/25. Off Shaint Island. D.G. out of Action. Please advise whether to proceed to destination. (G.B.N.S. Restive 1700/25).

MOST SECRET.

25. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ASAKA MARU. My 0757/24. Destination Bilbao, E.T.A. 0900/25. (F.O.C.N.A, 0125/25, to N.A. Stn.)

Force H. Arrival S.O. Force H. in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, FOXHOUND FORTUNE FORESIGHT, FIREDRAKE.(S.O.I., Gib., 0946/25, to Admty.)

TUNA
PANDORA. Position of S/M at 1200 and movements for 24 hrs. (A) TUNA with H.G.54.(B) PANDORA 036° 40' N 009° 18' W, proceeding on surface to Gibraltar speed (?11)knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1434/25, to N.A. Stn.).

PANDORA
RESOLUTION. Adjust speed to pass through position 340° Cape Spartel 12' at 0800/27, reporting if you will be more than two hours late. 1. You will not be escorted to Gibraltar. You will (sail) with convoy (date). RESOLUTION escorted by four destroyers p.c. and S. at 1200/25, 037° 50' N, 012°, 00' W, 320° nine knots. (Capt. (S) 8, 1440/25, to PANDORA.)

A.G.54. Instruct ships joining from Funchal that in case of separation they are to follow standard route and not the diversion from standard route as ordered by N.C.S.O. Funchal. (F.O.C.N.A. 1536/25, to LEITH.)

MAGALLANES.
Germans on
Board. Reliably informed 3 Germans serving as Stewards on board Spanish S.S.MAGALLANES arrived Bilbao 13th/2. (? and occupied) on N and S. American (? trunk runs). If ship not wearing Spanish Gov. Ensign these men should be removed if suspicion warrants. (F.O.C.N.A. 1659/25, to N.A. Station.)

/Air Report.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Northern Atlantic Contd.

Air Report. Daily Summary Operations, Area covered 3° 50' W, to 10° W.(200 Group,1700/25.)

HYDROUSSA
AGIOS
SPYRIDON. If bottoms thoroughly scraped request prospects of improved speed enabling them to join H.G. Convoy. (D.T.D. 1920/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A/S.Trawlers. My 2302/25. These A/S Trawlers provisionally allocated to you to provide additional escort for H.G. and O.G. convoys rather than for local patrols. LADY HOGARTH should sail from U.K. about mid-March. Trawlers may later be transferred to Freetown if U-Boat menace in that area increases. (D.O.D. (F) 2305/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

WISHART,
VIDETTE. Departures 0800/25, WISHART and VIDETTE in accordance with C. in C. S.A's, 1213/21, (Re sailing of local escort to R.V.to FORESIGHT and FORESTER.) (S.O.I., Freetown, 1001N/25.)

CORNWALL. My 1421 B/23. CORNWALL ready for sea at 1 hour's notice for steam. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1003Z/25.)

CUMBERLAND. Agree your visit to Falkland Is. with CUMBERLAND. You should be back in the Plate area 9/3, next move to return in that direction. (C. in C. S.A., 1023/25, to R.A.S.A.D.)

FENRIS. Over due shipping, cancel my 1001/21, FENRIS Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1202B/25.)

Enemy Unit.
CORNWALL. Your 2307/24, Par. (c) my 1115/22. It is possible these indications on Feb. 19th, 20th, and 21st may be enemy supply vessel or vessels waiting ADMIRAL SCHEER'S return. Suggest CORNWALL leaves Simonstown 28/2,spends 2 to 3 days in the area referred to, then to St. Helena to fuel and on to R.V. with W.S. 6 about equator. (C. in C. S.A., 1231N/25, to Admty.)

/Admty.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

	Admty. 2307/24/2 and my 1231N/25. CORNWALL is to carry out practices for the present (C. in C. S.A, 1233N/25, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)
Whale Catchers.	My 2131Z/24 and Admty., 1926/15. THORSHAMMER and mine catchers left for Fayal 24/2 and expect to meet QUEEN OF BERMUDA (? 064°, S. 050° W, approximately 27/2. Oil fuel on board 3600 tons whale oil (?2000) barrels including Sperm, 600 tons water for QUEEN OF BERMUDA. Owing to dissatisfaction of crew of catcher THORARIN proceeding Montevideo have concurred in Magistrate's suggestion to delay her 14 days to keep present movements of factory secret. (N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1248/25, to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)
Suspicious Ship, HALCYON.	My 1655/24. Further examination of master indicates tonnage of vessel may be overestimated since he insists she resembles a a Hansa vessel. She was a S. Ship with large passenger accommodation.(N.C.S.O. Bahia, 1345/25, to Admty.)
MACON.	Overdue shipping. British MACON sailed Mersey 30/1, due Freetown 20/2, has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1621/25, to Admty.)
PORT FREMANTLE.	Your 1832/20 to Fairmiss check and report to Admty. position E, also date of arrival 51° N. (D.T.D. 1808/25, to Consul, Monte Video.
MALAYA. FAULKNOR. FORESTER.	MALAYA, FAULKNOR and FORESTER are to leave Convoy W.S.6. p.m./28, and increase speed so as to pass Freetown boom at 1600N/1/3.(C. in C. S.A, 1935N/25.)

/THORSHAMMER.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 2. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

THORSHAMMER.	My 1926/15. (re Fuel and Whale oil on board THORSHAMMER.). Repeat reply sent to para. E. (D.T.D. 2021/25, to N.O.I.C, Falklands.)
DUNEDIN.	To remain under S.A. Command for present. To act as special ocean escort for s.s. PROME. (D.O.D.(F) 2212/25, to C. in C. W.A.)
Suspicious Vessel. 9/2.	Master of Panama ship HALCYON now at Bahia reports sighting suspicious vessel at 1700/9, in 00° 31' S. 40° 5' W, which closed to 4 miles and then altered course N. (Description). Master insists she resembled HANSA vessel and was s.s. with large passenger accommodation. (S.O.I. Monte Video, 2203z/25.)

Mediterranean

Kastelorizo, captured.	Kastelorizo Island occupied dawn/25. (See C. in C. Med., 0002/26.)
MANUNDA. SOMERSETSHIRE. (hospital ships.)	Your 1315z/24. Date of departure Suez Hospital ship (MANUNDA depends on progress of clearing canal. Anticipate on or before 5/3. Hospital ship SOMERSETSHIRE left Capetown 21/2, future movements unknown here. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 0107/25, to A.C.N.B.)
Tripoli bombed.	Special operational Summary. All times G.M.T Night 24/25. Weather forecast indicated Valona unfavourable. Wellingtons attacked Tripoli Harbour, from 1830 to 2300 hours. Hits on Customs Wharf causing explosions and starting severe fires. 1 ship left burning near Customs and 2 probable hits on shipping in Middle of Harbour.

/Explosion.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Tripoli bombed.

Explosion and large fire lasting 1 hour near Eastern Mole. 3 sticks round power station. Other hits on land near Castello. 2 large ships outside harbour assisted in A.A.barrage. 1 aircraft failed to return. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 0745/25.)

DAINTY sunk.

H.M.S. DAINTY sunk when off Tobruk by enemy A/C during dusk on 24/2. Casualties about 20. (C. in C. Med., 1005/25, to Admty.)

Hospital ship ABA.

Defects as probable result of bomb near misses.(D.S.T.O, Alexandria, 1108/25, to D. of S.T., etc.)

Mining in Suez Canal.

Proposal to net the bottom of canal. (C. in C. Med. 1129/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

"Cucumber" Sweeping.

I should be glad of any information concerning Italian (? ability) to sweep "CUCUMBER". (S.O. Force H, 1137/25, to Admty.)

Your 1137/25. No information concerning Italian equipment available. Germans have developed a sweep which works but have not yet produced it in sufficient quantity for themselves. They may have informed Italians of method, but unlikely they would have transferred sweeps or that Italians would have made any considerable number. (D.T.M. 1928/25 to S.O. Force H.)

Balearic Islands.

Request early reconnaissance of, Maddalena harbour, Cagliari aerodrome and harbour, and Algiero Aerodrome, to ascertain whether preparations are being made for attack on Balearic Is.(S.O. Force H., 1139/25, to V.A. Malta.)

/REGENT.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

REGENT. Leave area p.m./26, through 034° 20' 012° 16' and 035° 31' (? 014°) 12' to arrive off (corrupt group) Harbour 06309/28. (Comdr. (S) 1, 1143/25. to REGENT.)

Minesweeping. Your 1311/22. Distance at which mines explode varies between two miles and very close. Analysis shows 95% of mines have been swept at half a cable or more. Estimate that a sweeper gives 95% clearance of active mines over channel one cable wide, 88% over two cables, 27% over a mile. (D.T.M., 1400/25, to R.A. Alexandria.)

Air attacks on Malta. Succession of reconnaissances and fighter patrols over Malta today by total 4 Do. 215's, one He.111 and large number M.E. 109's in small formations at a time. 2 moored Sunderlands St. Paul's Bay machine gunned, not hit. Hurricanes up during each of 6 alarms shot down 2 Do. 215's confirmed into sea and 1 Do. 215 probably shot down but unconfirmed. 1 Hurricane forced landed in sea, engine trouble not due enemy action, pilot rescued injured. 2 Hurricanes superficial damage by bullet holes. 1 Glenn Martin arrived from U.K. Cheers. We can now do some reconnaissances.(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1745/25.)

Coast Defence, Crete and Libya. Your 1628/14 (not to V.A. Malta). Concur in proposal to land 6" Anti-Submarine gun from EBSEX for Coast Defence. Request proposals regarding disposal of 3" H.A. gun which should be appropriated to a suitable merchant ship not already provided.(D.T.D., 1835/25, to C. in C. Med.)

/MALTA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

SARNA mined.

SARNA was mined, and sunk in Canal at (?Km) 138.5 while sweeping. She is clear of channel. Preliminary report indicates an accoustic mine. 2. Casualties. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1929/25).

Stores for Malta.

Length of time for stores to reach Malta is not realized in U.K. All stores must go round Cape for transhipment in Egypt. Owing to congestion in Egyptian ports and irregularity of Malta convoys at least 2 months elapse between arrival of stores in Egypt and arrival of same stores in Malta. Frequently also essential parts of machinery are left at Alexandria and have to wait for following convoys. (V.A. Malta, 1953/25 to Admty).

PARTHIAN.
RORQUAL.

Your 1934/25 (N/T in W.R). RORQUAL leaves Alexandria 1800/26 through 032° 00' 028° 30' thence through 034° 00' 028° 00' to Northward.
(Capt. (S) 1. 2229/25 to PARTHIAN). *(Acknowledge).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Enemy Unit. Bearings from Simonstown, Durban and Kranji obtained at 2136 G.M.T./24 indicate enemy surface unit on a line Achin Head to Mauritius probably mid way.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore 0111Z/25, to C.in C. E.I.).

Brava occupied. My 1906/23 not to S.N.O. Red Sea.
Brava occupied by our troops 24/2. Our advanced troops have reached vicinity Vittoria and Merka where they are encountering opposition and about 3000 prisoners have been taken. (C.in C. E.I., 0412/25, to Admty.).

AUSTRALIA Cancel my 1942/24. After fuelling AUSTRALIA is to proceed to search an area between following points. (A) 019° 50' South 067° 50' (B) 021° 30' 069° 35' (C) 024° 15' 066° 30' (D) 022° 50' 064° 55'. As much of this area as possible but especially S.E. part is to be searched during daylight 26/2. Speed not to exceed 27 knots unless essential.
(C.in C. E.I., 0452Z/25, to Force V).

GLASGOW Force Z. My 1934/24. GLASGOW on leaving Mauritius proceed at 20 knots passing South of Reunion but not approaching within 20 miles. Subsequently adjusting course and speed for R/V with Force "Z".
(C.in C. E.I., 0514Z/25, to Force V).

Aden Air Raid. Air Raid at Aden 24/2 put Naval W/T Station power line out of action 0658 to 0912 G.M.T. No casualties. (C.in C. E.I., 0612Z/25, to Admty.).

ENTERPRISE My 1866/24 amend position of rendezvous to read 005° 40' N. 054° 55'. Speed of advance of convoy is 15 knots.
(C.in C. E.I., 0712Z/25 to Force V, ENTERPRISE).

/ W.3.5B.X. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

W.S.5B.X.
MAURETANIA,
NIEUW AMSTERDAM,
CANBERRA.

Your 1045/24. Intend convoy WS 5 BX consisting of EMPRESS OF JAPAN and AQUITANIA to leave Bombay about (date) escorted by ENTERPRISE.
MAURETANIA and NIEUW AMSTERDAM may proceed to Colombo unescorted. Intend CANBERRA to escort these two ships to Fremantle leaving Colombo (date).
(C.in C. E.I., 07462/25, to S.S.T.O. Bombay)

LEANDER

Your 0453/24/2. (New Zealand Govt. desires account of operation by LEANDER).
No objection provided accounts are in general terms. Would you like LEANDER to write an account?
(C.in C. E.I., 11362/25, to N.Z.N.B.)
Reply: Yes. (N.Z.N.B. 0126/26).

Enemy Units.

Your 10312/24. Several factors discredit possibility of target at 2136 being in Eastern Mediterranean. Traffic suggests two different targets, possibly raider and supply ship in Indian Ocean.
(D.D.I.C. 1200/25 to Capt. O.S., Singapore).

U.S.10.

My 0554/23. Proposals. (S.S.T.O. India (Bombay) 12452/25 to D. of S.T.).
See Operations Volume.

CANBERRA
LEANDER
HERMES

CANBERRA on completion of fuelling at Seychelles 26/2 is to proceed as requisite to rendezvous with LEANDER in position 004° S. 074° E. at 0200Z/1/3.
CANBERRA is to (2 corrupt groups) to HERMES (? via) Oiler APPLELEAF before sailing.
(C.in C. E.I., 20262/25, to Force V).

LEANDER
CANBERRA

Oiler PEARLEAF arriving Addu Atoll about 0330Z/28. LEANDER is to arrive there at once and fuel, subsequently proceeding to rendezvous with CANBERRA as ordered in my 2073/25. Both ships then to proceed in company at 15 knots towards (?Fremantle)
(C.in C. E.I., 20282/25, to LEANDER)
? 72026/25 (Most Secret) intended.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

TAIKOO. Your 1238/24 (Request for position of tug TAIKOO) at Hancowry. (C.in C. China 03072/25, to Admty.).

Indo-China. Failure of de Schampre. Free French movement throughout Far East threatened. Propose to visit Hong Kong and possibly Shanghai immediately. (C.in C. China 07262/25, 0823/25).

HILDA MOLLER Cancel my 0825/24 HILDA MOLLER recalled Colombo.
(N.C.S.O. Singapore, 07452/25, to Admty.).

Mining Base Commodore Hong Kong's 0152/4/1.
Controlled mining base to be deferred for present. Question will be reviewed later this year.
(Head of M. 2132/25 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

GEORGIC My 1700/24 (Departure GEORGIC). Alternate route L should read 056° 50' N. 008° 55' W.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 0958/25, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.).

Non-departure of tankers. Your 1735/24. My 1201/21 to N.S.H.Q. only begins, delays, ELONA, ENGLONA, Oil RELIANCE. for D.O. repairs. THALATTA engine repairs 2 weeks. HIDLEFJORD engine repairs 1 week. HAAKON HAUAN engine repairs time uncertain ends. Do you wish this routine message sent to Admiralty also. 25 to Admty.).
(N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1430/2

/ ROYAL SOVEREIGN
BUXTON ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN
BUXTON

With concurrence of C.in C. A.W.I. intended ROYAL SOVEREIGN should proceed to Bermuda after fuelling and disembarking shells at Halifax on return from T.C.9, to hold two exercises and carry out gunnery practices. ROYAL SOVEREIGN would return to Halifax in time to escort H.X. (?118). BUXTON requires short docking prior to Atlantic crossing, cannot be done at Halifax for some weeks. Subject to concurrence of C.in C. A.W.I. intended that BUXTON shall accompany ROYAL SOVEREIGN as A/S escort and be docked at Bermuda if possible. (R.A. 3 B.S., 1656/25 to Admty.).

DANAE
DUNEDIN

A.T. 1515/9/1.
The movement of DANAE has been postponed and it is regretted that DUNEDIN cannot yet be released.
(D.O.D.(F) 2213/25, to C.in C. A.W.I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PLUS.	PLUS, CLIZIA, CAPO LENA left Bilbao 24/2, destination unknown. (Bilbao, 1308/25 to D.N.I).
GALILEA.	Arrived 23/2. (Valencia, 2020/25).
TANNENFELS.	Confirmed sailed from Kismayu p.m./30/1. (D.S. 539).
PROCIDA. GALILEA.	24/2 arrival PROCIDA 25/2 departure GALILEA for Marseilles. (Valencia 2040/25).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Kismayu.	Situation of Italian ships at. (D.S. 539).
CLIZIA.) CAPO LENA.)	See German Merchant Ships, 1308/25.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

MANSEPOOL
(torpedoed 24/2)

NORTHERN SPRAY is to R.V. with SALVONIA and SEAMAN in 000° 5 miles from Butt of Lewis at 1300 to-day and escort them to assist MANSEPOOL last reported in 61° 07' N. 12° 47'W. at 1533/24.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0037/25).
If ship is seaworthy she should be towed south through Minches to Rothesay Bay. If this is considered inadvisable report action taken. PICOTEE is to remain in company. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0045/25 to ST. OLAVES, THAMES, PICOTEE).

BRITISH GUNNER.
(torpedoed 24/2).

PETUNIA is standing by MANSEPOOL. Will stand by BRITISH GUNNER.
(NORTHERN REWARD, 0104/25).
My position now is 061° N. 013° 08'W. have searched attacked area. Nothing to report, am endeavouring to contact BRITISH GUNNER again. (NORTHERN REWARD 1430/25).
Continuing search for BRITISH GUNNER and MANSEPOOL. MALLOW proceeding to join H.X. 109 (Weather) My position 061° N. 013° 30'W. (CLARKIA 2000/25 to C. in C. W.A).

MANSEPOOL,
BRITISH GUNNER,
G.C. BROVIG.
(torpedoed 24/2).

MANSEPOOL likely to break up during present weather badly holed (fore) Bridge. BRITISH GUNNER hole Engine Room should float. BRITISH GUNNER was in 061°16' N. 012°20' W. at 1700/24. MANSEPOOL 16 miles 105° from BRITISH GUNNER. Am making progress with G.C. BROVIG holed starboard and forward. E.T.A. Lewis 2400/25.
(PETUNIA, 0615/25 to C. in C. W.A).

MANISTEE
(torpedoed 24/2).

Not met, (corrupt group) my p.c.s. are 062° (?14') N. 016° 29' W. 090° 14 Noon B.S.T. D.R. (Weather).
(CHURCHILL, 1201/25 to C. in C. W.A).

JONATHAN HOLT.
MANSEPOOL.
BRITISH GUNNER.
(torpedoed 24/2).

Following survivors on board (1) JONATHAN HOLT one, S.S. COPELAND has one, unknown ship has some others.
(2) MANSEPOOL 22, believed SS NAILSEA-MANOR has balance probably 17.
(3) BRITISH GUNNER 44, 3 were killed.
(PETUNIA, 1403/25 to C. in C. W.A).

/DIALA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.(contd);

DIALA. (British tanker, 8106 tons) The following has been read. SSSS de GPK. DIALA torpedoed 55.50 N, 14.00 W., 1225. (Port Patrick Radio 1248/25).

COPELAND. Following has been read. SSSS Position 61.02 N. 19.23 W. followed by submarine course 210, 1613/25. Thought to originate from COPELAND. (Valentia Radio 1616/25). Following has been read. SSSS. Position 61° 19' N. 19° 15'W. COPELAND followed by Submarine. (Valentia Radio 1628/25).

G.C. BROVIG. BROVIG is to be taken to Stornoway and beached alongside KINGSTON HILL. (C. in C. W.A. 1717/25 to PETUNIA).

My 1717/25 KINGSTON HILL (Bombed 22/2) has gone to Aultbea. Beach BROVIG in Glumaige Bay, Stornoway. (C. in C. W.A. 1936/25 to PETUNIA).

Submarines Reported.

1550. Possibly 58° N., 12.30 W. very indefinite.
1708. 61.19 N., 19.15 W., reported by rescue vessel COPELAND.
1813. Possibly 56° N., 11° to 12° W., very indefinite.
1919. 53° to 54° N., 20° W., indefinite. D.S. 540.
1950. 58.35 N., 6.55 W., reported by ACHATES.
2117. 55° to 55.30 N., 21° to 22° W. (Italian) indefinite.
2008. 48° N., 7.30 W., indefinite.

1609. My 1609/25. It is probable that formation reported was OB 290 or HX 109 convoy. (D.D.I.C. 1705/25 to TRIUMPH, WINCHELSEA, TAKU, CHELSEA, AUSONIA, H.Q.C.C.)

1708. Admty Message AF. Position 61° 19' N. 19° 15' W. at 1608/25 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1749/25).

/1813.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

1813. D/F bearings at 1813/25indicate that convoy OB 290 is being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 1847/25 to WINCHELSEA, TRIBUNE, CHELSEA, TAKU.).

1950. One submarine bearing 180 distance 7 miles course unknown position 58.42 N., 6.55 W. (ACHATES, 1950/25).

My 1950, submarine submerged. (ACHATES, 1955/25 to Scapa W/T).

ACHATES sighted submarine astern of convoy. Failed to gain contact. Rejoined convoy position at 2100 058° 44'N. 007° 38'W. (ANTELOPE, 2101/25 to C. in C.W.A).

2008. By D/F at 2008/25 position of German U-Boat approx. 48° N. 7° 30'W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2038/25).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

German.
1 - 40 miles of 61° 10' N. 13° 20'W.
1 - 59° N. - 60° N, 10° W. - 13° W.
1 - 60 miles of 58° 30' N. 11° W.
2 - 57° 30'N. - 60° N, 19° W - 22° W.
Possibly 1 - 40 miles of 60° 30'N, 25° 30'W.
1 - 60 miles of 58° 30' N, 17° W.
1 - 60 miles of 56° 30' N, 19° W.
1 about 48° 30' N. 7° W en route Lorient.

Italian.
1 - 40 miles of 55° 40' N. 20° W.
1 - about 47° N. 13° W. en route Bordeaux.
1 - 59° N - 60° N, 13° W - 16- W.
No information of others at sea.
(D.D.I.C. 1415/25).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

E/Boat Attack.

S.S. MINORCA was torpedoed and sunk by an E/Boat off Sheringham Shoal in the early hours of this morning.

Further U/Boat attack on O.B.290.

Convoy O.B.290 was attacked by U/Boat agai last night in the N.W.Approaches and S.S. BORGLAND and KASONGO were torpedoed.

British Air Activity.

Boulogne was bombed last night.

Patrols in the North Sea were extended to the Coast of Norway today. At 1360 one of the patrolling aircraft sighted an enemy convoy of 10 ships with 2 destroyers steering south, about 25 miles North of Horn's Reef. Beaufort aircraft were sent to attack, but failed to find the convoy.

Enemy Air Activity.

Attack on Convoy O.B.290. in N.W. Approaches. MELMORE HEAD, KYRIAKOULA, SOLFERINO, RYDBOHOLM, LLANWERN, SOVAC, MAHANADA, BEURSPLEIN, AMSTELLAND, SWINBURN, damaged or sunk.

Attacks on shipping in the N.W. Approaches are taking place outside the present range of fighter protection from the U.K. Convoy O.B.290 was attacked this morning in 55° 27'N., 16½° 0'W. S.S. MELMORE HEAD was damaged and abandoned. KYRIAKOULA was abandoned though apparently not hit. SOLFERINO is reported on fire and abandoned and RYDBOHOLM abandoned but salvage possible. Convoy O.B.290 was attacked again by F.W.Aircraft at 1807 in 54° 7'N., 17° 6'W. S.S. LLANWERN was sunk, SOVAC, MAHANADA and BEURSPLEIN reported burning fiercely, AMSTELLAND damaged but salvageable, SWINBURN presumed sunk. WESTON'S barrage damaged and perhaps shot down one F.W.C.

Two further ships, BLANKAHOLM and SURINAME were damaged and proceeded to Ponta Delgada.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

EMPIRE STEELHEAD damaged.

EMPIRE STEELHEAD which left convoy W.N.85 on 25/2 with steering trouble was bombed and damaged and set on fire this morning 10 miles E. of Cromarty and was towed to Invergordon.

TENERIFFA sunk.

S.S. TENERIFFA was bombed and sunk off St. Govan's Head this afternoon.

Attack on Cardiff.

Cardiff was attacked between 1945 and 2200 today by 70 to 80 enemy aircraft. Slight damage was caused in the docks.

Mining.

Coastal Command aircraft last night dropped mines in Hubert Gat and Terschelling Gat.

Mines were exploded today off Swansea. During the last 6 days four S.A.Trawlers have been damaged by near mine explosions in this area, and at present only one S.A. sweeper is available.

Trawlr CHRISTABELLE was sunk today North of the Faroes, presumably by a floating mine. Power barges BRACKELIER and MONARCH were mined and sunk off Hull. These mines were exploded in the Humber. area.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air Attack on Luqa Aerodrome.

4 German bombers escorted by 20 to 30 fighters carried out large scale attack on Luqa Aerodrome (Malta) this morning. Several British aircraft were destroyed and damaged on the ground and several enemy aircraft were shot down, many of them by A.A.fire. The aerodrome was rendered unserviceable.

An enemy Red Cross Seaplane accompanied by about 20 fighters carried out a search for an hour this evening 40 miles round the Northern half of the island.

Kasteloritzo.

Two enemy M.T.B's raided Kasteloritzo last night, but withdrew before our ships could make contact.

East Indies.

Search for Raider.

AUSTRALIA is to sweep towards Colombo supporting EMERALD and HERMES on passage, on completion of fuelling at the Seychelles EMERALD and HERMES in company are to proceed to Colombo through the One and a half degrees channel: these two ships will be known as Force T. SHROPSHIRE is to proceed East of Madagascar to Durban and thence to Simonstown to refit. DORSETSHIRE on being relieved by GLASGOW as escort of Force Z, is to proceed to Mombasa.

The Germans claim that S.S. CANADIAN CRUISER was flying U.S.Flag and carrying U.S.markings when sunk, is denied by C.in C. E.I. The U.S.Consul witnessed her departure from Colombo on 5/2.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Submarine reported in West Indies.

U.S.ship COAMO reports that on 25/2 she was challenged by radio by a submarine in 24° 4'N., 68° 30'W. The submarine which was not American, headed west and submerged.

Australia.

In view of the presence of pocket battleship in the Indian Ocean CANBERRA, SYDNEY and HOBART will be placed under the orders of A.C.N.B. until required to escort U.S.10.

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Corvettes for Gibraltar Convoys.

COREOPSIS unable to comply with C. in C. W.A's 2024/19. (Capt. D. Greenock 1052/26).

GOETBORG.

Leaves Skopenfiord for Gothenburg about 2100/27 routed as follows and thence through British declared channel. Ship should not be molested.
(D.O.D. H. 1113/26 and F.O.S. 1301/26).

Firing at Unseen Targets.

Admiralty message 70 A Z of 2?th January. The routes taken by convoys are very close to the Northern dividing line and as reported by Admiralty 1622/22 mistakes in routeing have occurred and are liable to recur as positions of convoys are so uncertain. As suggested in Rosyth 1746/17/1 it is considered that the line should run north from the Butt of Lewis to the Faroes and thence over to Iceland. This line would give the following advantages:-

(A) Convoy routes normally lie to the westward of the line and thus all messages would be routed on area broadcast.

(B) Home Fleet units co-operating with incoming convoys would be on same area W/T organisation.

(C) Unless previously notified all merchant ships to the eastward to be treated with suspicion.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1203/26).

Jan Mayen.

Your 1343/24. Concur that this expedition should not be allowed. (D.O.D. H. 1736/26 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

JAGUAR.
ISAAC SWEERS.

JAGUAR should be regarded as having joined the Mediterranean Fleet as from 31/1/41.

2. Dutch destroyer ISAAC SWEERS will replace this ship in the 5th Flotilla about end of May. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1926/26).

/Finnish.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (contd).

Finnish Ships. Homeward Route. QZX.6. Minefield.

Your 1736/21, para. 1 is not fully understood. There is nothing in Admiralty instructions to stop vessels proceeding as far North or making landfall as far East as they like, after passing through 67° N. 05° E.

Para. 2 and your 1117/15. This minefield is known and has been promulgated confidentially. (D.N.I. 2012/26).

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/26. (D.C. 1147/26).
At 2330/26. (D.C. 2320/26).

Dropping of Flares during Invasion.

S. 5651/F.O.6. The dropping of flares over the U.K. constitutes a hostile act rendering the aircraft liable to immediate engagement by Fighter aircraft or ground defences, unless previous notice has been given to H.Q., F.C.

2. C. in C. Home Forces requests that in the event of invasion this rule should be waived and permission given for Army Co-operation Squadrons on "Action Stations" to drop parachute flares half an hour before first light approx. 4 miles from the coast in their respective reconnaissance areas, object being to disclose to the infantry on the beaches the presence or otherwise of enemy craft approaching.

The views of the Adty are sought as to whether the rule quoted in para 1. above should be amended to permit flares to be dropped on the occasion and under the conditions proposed. Whilst it is appreciated that Naval forces might thereby be exposed to attack in the initial stages of an invasion, without such flares there may be no illumination of the targets for shore defences. (Air Ministry F.O.6. 1730/26 to Adty).

/Faroes.....

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdon.

Faroes
A/A
Defences.

0158/536 (AA4) 26/2/41.
Necessary action is being taken on para.5 of your 1706/25. C.O.C. Faroe Isles Force has cabled that owing limited troops for ground defence he cannot take on manning these guns and we agree. It will be some tine before LAA personnel can be mobilised and available for this role but necessary steps will be taken dependent on COS decision. In meantime assume you will continue to man guns with naval personnel.
(War Office 1815/26 to Admty).

Movements.

DUNEDIN.

Admiralty 2212/25. DUNEDIN is to sail so as to R/V with O.G.54 as follows:
(C.in C. W.A. 0205/26 to DUNEDIN).
Cancel my 0205/26. DUNEDIN is now to sail so as to R/V with O.G.54 in 051° 05'N., 020° W. at 1000/2nd. and thereafter act as ocean escort. Course and speed of convoy should then be 209 degs. 7 knots routed as follows:
DUNEDIN is to give instructions to S.S. PROME as to subsequent movements in accordance with Admty's 2212/25. On parting company LINCOLN is to report position O.G.54 to DUNEDIN when well clear of convoy.
(C.in C. W.A. 1206/26 to DUNEDIN.)
Admiralty 2212/25 and my 1206/26. On gaining contact with S.S. PROME in convoy O.G.54 DUNEDIN and PROME are to part company and proceed at best speed suitable to PROME by following route to Gibraltar.
(C.in C. W.A. 2330/26).

LONDON.

Intend to sail LONDON for Scapa at 1200/4. Escort of two destroyers to accompany LONDON as far as Kinnaird Head will be provided from Nore Command. C.in C. H.F. is requested to provide escort for remainder of passage if considered necessary. Fighter protection for passage will be arranged by C.in C. Nore. Approx. time passing Kinnaird Head 1200/5.
(C.in C. Nore, 1110/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdon.

Faroes A/A Defences.

0158/536 (AA4) 26/2/41.
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It will be some tine before LAA personnel can be mobilised and available for this role but necessary steps will be taken dependent on COS decision. In meantime assume you will continue to man guns with naval personnel.
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(C.in C. Nore, 1110/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

TAKU TRIBUNE.	My 1951/25. Proceed thence TAKU through 056° N., 025° W. TRIBUNE through 055° N., 025° W. and thence to Halifax by route previously ordered. (F.O.(S) 1254/26).
M.G.B's.	Your 1230/26. (No trace). In view of weather forecast M.G.B's are not to be sailed. (C.in C. Plymouth 1314/26 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).
HAVELOCK.	Request HAVELOCK be detached on passing to Aultbea whence she is required for escort 28/2. (C.in C. W.A. 1506/26 to C.S.18).
Northern Patrol.	Trawler lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.C.S. 1536/26).
HONNINGSVAAG VESLA KARI.	My 1410/25. HONNINGSVAAG and VESLA KARI further delayed. Expect to sail at noon 27th. (F.O.Iceland 1707/26).
Submarines.	Positions at 0800/27 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1721/26).
O.21. O.23.	Sailed 021 and 023 accompanied by LA MOQUEUSE in accordance with your (2359/25). (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1920/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Two Destroyers required as Convoy A/S Escort.

My 2144/15 and C.in C. W.A. 1232/25.

2. Additional destroyers are required as A/S escort for special convoy sailing from Clyde on 4/3.

4. C.in C. Portsmouth is requested to detail two "V" Destroyers for this duty. During the absence of these ships the 20th Flotilla will remain at Portsmouth. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1956/26).

L.27.

Intend sailing 1900/27 L27 diving by day routed as follows to N one buoy off Needles E.T.A. 0800/28 request escort to meet her.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2344/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Convoy MINORCA (British, 1123 Tons) sunk.	One enemy war motor boat bearing 090° distance 3 miles, course unknown, posiion 53° 4'N., 1° 20'E. (VORTIGERN 0232/26) (WOOLSTON 0234/26). S.S. MINORCA torpedoed and sunk in 053° 04'N., 001° 21'E. (WOOLSTON 0321/26). S.S. MINORCA sunk in vicinity of Sheringham, probably by E/Boat torpedo. Seven survivors in S.S. RUDMORE. (VORTIGERN, 0333/26).
Operation POCKET.	POCKET postponed today on account of weather. (C.in C. Plymouth 0752/26 to H.Q.F.C.) Request POCKET may be extended to include 28/2 and 1/3. Two six Destroyers taking part. (C.in C. Plymouth 1604/26 to H.Q.F.C.)
Operation against E/Boats.	Weather permitting following operation is to be carried out tonight with object of counter attacking E/Boats. Force A. Two M.T.B's to be at Sheringham Light Buoy at 2000/26 and patrol close to Buoy on silent engines until 0001/27. Force B. Two M.T.B's to be at No.5 Buoy at 2000/26 and patrol close to northward of buoy on silent engines until 0130/27. Force C. Available M.L's to arrive in position 52° 11'N. 02° 15'E, before dark 26th and patrol on line 050° 230° for distance of 5 miles from this position until daylight when M.L's are to return to Yarmouth. 2. Patrol "C" is not repetition not to go north of No.5 Buoy. 3. F.N.Convoy of 10 ships is due No.5 Buoy at 1830/26 and Sheringham Light Buoy at 0030/27. F.S.Convoy of 76 ships is due Sheringham Light Buoy at 1630/26, and No.5 Buoy at 0200/27.

/4.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.(Contd.)

Operation against E/Boats. (Contd.)

4. At 0001/27 Force A. is to withdraw to westward to well outside visibility range from convoy returning to Sheringham Buoy at 0300/27. Force A is to leave for Harwich at daylight 27th proceeding by Q.Z.S.172.

5. At 0130/27 Force B is to withdraw to Eastward to well outside visibility range from convoy route returning to No.5 Buoy at daylight 27th and proceeding thence to Harwich.
(C.in C. Nore, 1150/26 and C.in C. Nore, Recd., 1435/26).
Two M.T.B's will be at Sheringham Light Buoy from 2000/26 until 0001/27. Two M.T.B's will be at No.5 Buoy from 2000/26 until 0130/27. Adjust speed so that convoy does not reach Sheringham Light Buoy and No.5 Buoy before 0001/27 and 0130/27 respectively.
(C.in C. Nore, 1244/26 to SOUTHDOWN,etc.)
Sailed M.T.B's 43,18,31 at 1639.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1641/26).
Your 1150/26 departure M.L's 110,108 at 1625.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1920/26 to C.in C. Nore).

Operation N.C.

Operation N.C. will be carried out zero time 2215.
(V.A.Dover, 1414/26).

Trawler Patrol of Q.Z.F.

Sailed DERBY COUNTY to carry out instructions in your 1646/26.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1754/26 to C.in C. Plymouth).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Firth of Forth.	Night flying from Crail 0430 to 0715 today stopped. Flame floats will be dropped North West of May Island between 0640 and 0700. (C.in C. Rosyth 0106/26 to VERSATILE).
T.C.9. Air Escort.	Sunderland aircraft will reach 060° 14' N., 009° 42'W. at 0815. After identifying itself to convoy aircraft will provide A.S.escort keeping outside 12000yards, from convoy. Relief for Sunderland will reach 058° 47'N., 007° 20'W. at 1600, carry out some procedure escorting till darkness. (C.in C. Rosyth 0142/26). My 0142/26 delayed weather. Whitley aircraft may be sighted in your vicinity any time after 0800/26. (C.in C. Rosyth 0730/26). My 0730/26. Sunderland should arrive about 1300. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1044/26). My 1044. Sunderland delayed should now reach 059° 18'N., 008° 05'W. at 1400. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1254/26).
Patrols.	Patrols being flown today. S.A.2., UNST., EUSTACE., (C.in C. Rosyth, 0918/26). My 0918. Add patrol S.A.3. Both patrols S.A.2. S.A.3. have been extended to coast. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1040/26).
KINGSTON HILL, (Bombed 22/2).	Cancel all previous instructions. KINGSTON HILL is to remain at Loch Ewe. Ship has not to be beached unless necessary but has to be anchored in shallow water. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1118/26). Report on KINGSTON HILL. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1227/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Bombing Restrictions.

A.M.1111/20/9/40. Request bombing restrictions from 1900/26 to 0800/27 in zone 15 miles on each side of line joining Nab Tower and Cape D'Antifer. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1753/26 to H.Q.C.C.)

Flushing,)
Calais,)
Boulogne,)
Dunkirk.)

1. Day 25/2. One Blenheim attacked the submarine repair and assembly station at Flushing where three bursts were observed, machine gunned Vlissingen Aerodrome, Oil tanks at Flushing and two small vessels off Coast of Flushing. Attacked Night 25/26. Details. (H.Q.B.C.1812/26).

Enemy Minelaying A/C Bases.

X.268 26/2.
Recent minelaying by enemy aircraft has imposed heavy strain on naval sweeping facilities. Request bases of enemy mine-laying aircraft be included in INTRUDER operations.
(Air Ministry, 2300/26 to Fighter Command

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy O.B.290.
MELMORE HEAD (British 5273 tons) abandoned.
SOLFERINO (Norwegian 2580 tons) abandoned
KYRIAKOULA (Greek, 4340 tons)
RYDBOHOLM (Swedish 3197 tons) abandoned.

MELMORE HEAD bombed at 0900 in 55° 27'N., 16° W. (Lyness W/T 0900/26) (Valentia 0905/26). Even No. O.B.Convoy being attacked by aircraft my position 55° 7'N., 16° 50'W. course 234 speed 8 knots. (Liverpool 1027/26 SOLFERINO burning and abandoned, GDYNIA returning with survivors. MELMORE HEAD listing to port abandoned. Greek KYRIAKOULA apparently not hit but abandoned have ordered to return to. Salvage of last 2 possible lat. 55° 02' Long. 16° 25'. (ENCHANTRESS 1050/26).
My 0955/26 not to NORTHERN SPRAY. PRUDENT and RESTIVE are still sheltering in Stornoway. Escort them when they proceed to assistance of damaged ships. (C.in C. W.A. 1230/26 to PETUNIA).

/Swedish

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

(Swedish 3197 tons) RYDBOHOLM abandoned salvageable condition 055° 48'N., 014° 24'W.
(PIMPERNEL 1330/26 to C.in C. W.A.)
My C250/26. S.S. DIALA (torpedoed 26/2) now proceeding under her own steam. MAN O' WAR and SUPERMAN are to proceed forthwith to assist MELMORE HEAD.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1747/26 to MAN O' WAR SUPERMAN.)

Lyness Signal.

Signal re air attacks now cancelled. (Lyness 1123/26).

EMPIRE STEELHEAD. (British, 7743 tons) bombed.

Bombed, damaged, and on fire 10 miles 080° from Cromarty at 1126. M/S vessels STAR OF THE WAVE and GEORGE COUSINS now assisting. 14 group informed at 1133.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1201/26).
My 1201/26. Fire under control. 1 Trawler returning Invergordon with wounded 2 trawlers expect to tow vessel to Invergordon.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1251/26).
My 1201/26. M/S Tra ler GEORGE COUSINS due Invergordon 1500 with 5 dead and 4 wounded ex EMPIRE STEELHEAD. EMPIRE STEELHEAD in tow by STAR OF THE WAVE and CAPE BARRACOUTA making good 2 knots towards Invergordon. E.T.A. 1800.
F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1420/26).
EMPIRE STEELHEAD left Loch Ewe and joined convoy W.N.89 on 24/2 for Methil for instructions as to which East Coast port she was to go to for engine repairs. Owing to failure of steam steering gear she was detached from convoy off Kinnairds Head at 1900/25 for Cromarty but was bombed at 1130/26 in 270° Burghead 5 miles. Is now proceeding in tow to Cromarty. E.T.A. 1800/26.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1533/26).
My 1420. Vessel now safely inside Cromarty Firth being towed to anchorage off Invergordon. Extent of damage not yet known.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 2009/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy W.N.Even.	1 Aeroplane shadowing convoy bearing from centre of convoy 58° 38'N., 2° 38'W. (HELMSPEY 1220/26). Fighter aircraft are being sent. (Lyness W/T 1237/26). (Rosyth 1226/26).
Convoy GRAIN.	Fighters being sent to convoy GRAIN. (Rosyth 1226/26). No Trace of Code word in War Registry.
TENERIFFA sunk.	(Norwegian 5655 tons). Sunk by bombing in 51° 6'N., 4° 49'W. No loss of life. Survivors in (?) bound up channel. (ST. MARYS 1450/26). Proceed to assist M/V attacked by enemy aircraft in 5 miles S. by E. St. Govan's Head Light Vessel. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1504/26 to ST. MARYS). St. Govan's Light Vessel reports large motor vessel 3 mast name not known heavily attacked by two large aircraft and sank at 1430. Two coasters standing by. M/L and A/P trawler sent from Milford Haven. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1543/26). My 1543/26. Name of ship Norwegian Z TENERIFFA. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1620/26). My 1620/26. ST. MARY'S reports all crew of M/V TENERIFFA saved. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1745/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy O.B.290. LLANWERN (British 4966 tons) sunk. SOVAC (British tanker 6724 tons) MAHANADA (British 7181 tons) BEURSPLEIN (Dutch, 4368 tons) AMSTELLAND (Dutch, 8156 tons) damaged.	SOVAC bombed by six aircraft, in 54° N., 17° W. (Port Patrick Radio 1755/26). From SOVAC at 1751. Following from LLANWERN. Bombed 54.7 North 17.06 West. Aerial was earthing. Here attack still proceeding. (VALENTIA RADIO 1805/26). From Valentia Radio. 5400N., 1700W. SOVAC bombed by six aircraft 1753/26. Attack still proceeding. Station sending automatic AAAA and VVA at 1809 G.M.T. GCK states this station is in this immediate vicinity. (Port Patrick Radio 1810/26). Help - ONSET (Even numbered O.B.Convoy) 54° 7'N., 17° 6'W at 1845. (Motor A/S Boat No.12. 1856/26). O.B.290 attacked by 4 F.W.C. aircraft Following casualties. LLANWERN sunk. SOVAC, MAHANADA and BEURSPLEIN burning fiercely. AMSTELLAND is salvageable. WESTON will take her in tow. Request tug may be sent. Weather report. Position 54° 12'N., 16° W. (WESTON 2137/26).
Convoy PEWIT.	20 enemy aircraft over Convoy PEWIT. My position 51° 22'N., 1° 32'E. (BLENCATHRA, 1816/26).

Mining.

Liverpool.	Prohibitions and Restrictions. A.M. 2355/25/12 is cancelled. (D.T.D. 1240/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy O.B.290. LLANWERN (British 4966 tons) sunk. SOVAC (British tanker 6724 tons) MAHANADA (British 7181 tons) BEURSPLEIN (Dutch, 4368 tons) AMSTELLAND (Dutch, 8156 tons) damaged.	SOVAC bombed by six aircraft, in 54° N., 17° W. (Port Patrick Radio 1755/26). From SOVAC at 1751. Following from LLANWERN. Bombed 54.7 North 17.06 West. Aerial was earthing. Here attack still proceeding. (VALENTIA RADIO 1805/26). From Valentia Radio. 5400N., 1700W. SOVAC bombed by six aircraft 1753/26. Attack still proceeding. Station sending automatic AAAA and VVA at 1809 G.M.T. GCK states this station is in this immediate vicinity. (Port Patrick Radio 1810/26). Help - ONSET (Even numbered O.B.Convoy) 54° 7'N., 17° 6'W at 1845. (Motor A/S Boat No.12. 1856/26). O.B.290 attacked by 4 F.W.C. aircraft Following casualties. LLANWERN sunk. SOVAC, MAHANADA and BEURSPLEIN burning fiercely. AMSTELLAND is salvageable. WESTON will take her in tow. Request tug may be sent. Weather report. Position 54° 12'N., 16° W. (WESTON 2137/26).
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Liverpool.	Prohibitions and Restrictions. A.M. 2355/25/12 is cancelled. (D.T.D. 1240/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Swansea.	Mines exploded. Details. (today) (N.O.I.C. Swansea, 1601/26, 1875/26).
Falmouth.	At 0849/26 Mine detonated with S.A.Gear and at same time mine exploded ¼ mile on Port Beam of sweeper. Details. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1700/26).
S.A.Trawlers at Cardiff.	During last six days S.A.Trawlers ERIMO, INVERFORTH, TEWARA and DARNET NESS have been damaged by near miss explosions and will not be fit for service for some time. The only S.A. Sweeper now available in this area is COMMILLIES but it is hoped AKITA now fitting "A" frame will be ready on 28th. It is requested arrival of SIESTA, PITTSRUAN, POSTBOY, and KERRYADO (vide C.A.F.O. 247/41) may be hastened. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1717/26).
Hull. BRACKELIER and MONARCH (Power Barge) sunk.	At 1300 today Power Barge BRACKELIER Towing Barge MONARCH both of steel construction sunk by underwater explosion approximately 80 feet off Alexandria Jetty, Hull. Crew of two in BRACKELIER killed, crew of one in MONARCH rescued. (F.O. Humber, 1750/26).
Spurn Point.	The following three mines exploded today. Details. (F.O.Humber, 1844/26).
Z.M.E.21.	Particulars. To be carried out on night of 27/2 or as soon after as practicable. (D.O.D.(H) 1917/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

9th M/S Flotilla.

9th M.S.F. are required to operate under R.A.(M) at Port Z.A. and on completion of operations are to be sailed to Portsmouth to join C.in C. Portsmouth Command.

R.A.(M) is requested to inform A.C.O.S. time and date by which 9th M.S.F. should arrive at Port Z.A.

My 2131/25 refers.
(D.M.S. 1924/26).

Explosion.

M.G.B.10 on passage reports an explosion in position 318° South Fork Buoy 3 cables. This may have been an acoustic mine.
No damage.
(V.A.Dover, 1957/26).

Operation J.L.

Sailed 1915 INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, ICARUS, VANSITTART, and WIVERN.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 2147/26).

Enemy Intelligence.

Convoy sighted.

12 Merchant vessels course 180°. My position 55° 55'N., 7° 10'E.
(Duty E. 1300/26).
My 1300. Total enemy forces sighted up to time indicate consists of 10 merchant vessels 2 Destroyers.
(Duty E. 1310/26 to 18 R/C Group H.Q.)

GNEISENAU SCHARNHORST.

It is considered probable that GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST have recently been in Oslo and possibly they may now be on the West Coast of Norway.
(F.O.S. 1308/26 to S/M's Area A).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

Enemy Shipping.	At 2210/25 in 50°N., 1° 40'W. Two unidentified ships mounting searchlights unsuccessfully endeavoured to locate Wellington - ships did not open fire. At 1852/25 in 51° 40'N., 3° 25'E. 1 M/V 10,000 tons, 1 Coaster 2000 tons, and 5 patrol vessels stationary and facing N.N.E. (H.Q.B.C. 1812/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Distances and Bunkers.

Masters arrived from Freetown complain that N.C.S.O. Freetown does not discuss route distances prior to sailing, resulting in insufficient bunkers being taken at Freetown.
Commodore of S.L.64 reports that 6 ships were sailed from Freetown with less than 26 days fuel. Essential that Masters should be informed accurately of the distance their ships are likely to steam before reaching destin tion.
(D.T.D. 1238/26 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

Oiling Freetown.

To conserve oil supplies in U.K. instructions given to shipping companies re bunkering of oil burning ships in A.M. 1751/2/9 have been modified for outward bound shipping for South African ports. Present policy is that as many ships as can be bunkered at Freetown will be allowed only enough oil in the U.K. to reach Freetown.
(D.T.D. 2314/26 to A.I.G. 47).

Coastal Convoys.

F.N.16. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0818/26).
Tyne ships arrived. (N.C.S.O.Tyne, 1453/26).

E.N.78)
W.N.91) HASTINGS as additional A/A escort.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0925/26).
1 ship for. (N.C.S.O. Lyness, 1108/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.18. 0840/26, 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 0929/26). SOUTHDOWN to overtake. (C.in C. Nore, 1253/26). Numbers joining. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1725/26).

F.S.21. 76 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0946/26). Absentee (0947/26) List. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1044/26) Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1647/26).

F.N.17. List. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1036/26). E.T.A. (WOOLSTON, 1130/26). List. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1657/26).

E.N.76. 12 ships arrived. (1 absentee) (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1046/26). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1157/26). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1620/26).

4 M/V's. Arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1057/26).

F.S.19. My 1913/25, LEVENWOODS and LINWOOD reported in Harwich. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1112/26).

Dartmouth. Your 2207/25, sailing at 1930/26, Concur. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1147/26). Postponed 48 hours owing weather and lack of escort. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1806/26).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

E.N.78. 1345/27. Escorts. 14 ships. Codes. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1205/26).

10 M.V's To Dartmouth. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1207/26) List (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1217/26) Sailed (C.in C. Portsmouth 1910/26).

W.N.89. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1226/26) S/M H.43 arrived (1425/26).

F.N.18. List. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1252/26).

C.W.27. Departures with. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1354/26) 1418/26, 5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1441/26) List (1542/26) List (1542/26) Add M.L's etc. (V.A. Dover 1909/26).

E.N.77. Position (A.C.O.S., 1355/26).

F.N.9,
F.N.10,
F.N.11,
F.N.12,
F.N.12 A,
F.N.16. Tyne Ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1452/26)

F.S.22. Sailed 1400/26, 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1521/26) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1654/26)

3 M.V's LORD HAILSHAM to escort. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1526/26).

4 M.V's Penzance to Dartmouth. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1729/26).

E.N.75. 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1805/26).

/ W.N. 91. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

W.N. 91. 1905/26. Escort. 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1905/26).

W.N.U. 91. 1500/28, unescorted. 19 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1941/26).

9 M.V's Sailing 1630/27 for Bristol (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 2312/26).

Ocean Convoys.

O.C.54. 0035/26, escort SUNFLOWER, 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0115/26)
DUNEDIN to R.V. (position) at 1000/2 as ocean escort. (C.in C. W.A., 1206/26)
List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1015/26)
Departures (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1144/26)
Amendments to List (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0909/26).

H.X.109. 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0845/26).

O.B.M. 291. 1930/26, LEEDS UNITED, 5. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1003/26) List. (2015/26).

O.B.M. 292. 1745/27, DERBY COUNTY, 5. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1003/26).

O.B.C. 292. 2230/28, 12. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1020/26) Amend to read 0030/1. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1430/26).

S.C.23. HAVORN returned, lost convoy. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1226/26).

H.X.109 6 hours late at new R.V. (AUSONIA, 0430/26, C.in C. W.A. 1401/26 to CLARKIA, MALLOW).

S.C.22 U. Escort ANTELOPE, arrived (exception). (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1450/26) SHARP MOUNT to proceed Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1649/26).

/ H.X. 112. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X. 112. C.in C. H.F. 1436/25. Request you inform C.S.1 of names of A.M.C's detailed. (D.O.D.(H) 2009/26 to R.A.3.).

Military Convoys.

ALCANTARA My 1402/18. ALCANTARA is not now required to be ready to sail from Clyde until 4th March. (D.O.D.H. 1229/26).

ROYAL ULSTERMAN. ROYAL ULSTERMAN (16 kn.) with 185 troops will be ready to leave Liverpool on 28th February.
2. C.in C. Western Approaches is requested to sail this ship in O.B.292, with instructions to leave convoy and proceed independently to Reykjavik when escort parts company.
3. After disembarkation ship should be sailed unescorted for Liverpool, but not more than 100 personnel should embark for return passage. (D.O.D. H. 1236/26).

H.X.112. C.in C. Home Fleet's 1436/25, paragraph 3. Request you will inform C.S. 1 of names of A.M.C's detailed. (D.O.D. H. 2009/26).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

COSSACK. Reports small fire in stowage for cotton waste in tiller flat. Slight damage to internal D.C. Coil and possible damage by water to steering motor. Reference C.A.F.O. 1419/40 sabotage possible but not considered likely. Further report will be made as to possible effect of damage on completion date.
(F.O.I.C. Southampton 0138/26).
My 0138/26. Following received from D.4 begins Your 0138/26 damage to internal D.C. coil repaired. Steering motors tested and correct. No other damage Completion date not affected. 1423/26 ends.
(F.O.I.C. Southampton 1522/26).

VORTIGERN. Have been in collision with steamship WESTWOOD. Sustained damage at number 17 station starboard hand (side), from forecastle deck to 8 feet above water line.
(VORTIGERN 0331/26).

ACHATES. My 2300/25. ACHATES not located. Searches have been carried out without result. Owing to deterioration in weather, am having to withdraw patrols.
(N.A.S. Stornoway 1227/26).

AUSONIA. AUSONIA's 2235/23. Cause of defect in steering gear is excessive vibration of rudder post due to defective pintles of rudder. AUSONIA proposes carrying out Northern patrol after which considers dry docking advisable as soon as possible.
(F.O. Iceland 1630/26).

WAYNGATE. (British, 4260 tons) Master and total crew 39 in number of S.S. WAYNEGATE saved and now on board. (LEOPARD 1831/26).

ST. MARYS. Delayed at Milford Haven with dynamo defects which will take about nine hours to repair. (C.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2017/26).

EMPIRE TIGER. (British, 5159 tons). In 62° 5' N. 19° 50'W. Down badly by head. Want assistance. Ship stand by. (Valentia 2200/26).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

RENOWN — My 1226/21. Anticipated RENOWN ready for sea P.M./3/3.
(S.O. Force H., 0943/26, to Admty.).

French Units. — One French warship escorting one merchant ship p. c. and s. 038° 45' N. 009° 45' W. 200° 10 knots at 0025/26.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0952/26 to PANDORA).

VULCAN — Arrived at Ponta Delgada 0930 G.M.T./26. Reports unable decode message timed 1659/25. (From F.O.C.N.A. re S.S. MAGALLANES) Sailing 1900 G.M.T./26 (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1121/26).
(W.R. Note - F.O.C.N.A. has been requested to take action.).

TUNA
PANDORA — At 0800/27 (a) TUNA with H.G. 84 (b) PANDORA proceeding on surface E.T.A. 340 Cape Spartel 12 at 0800/27 thence to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1134/26).

FURY
FEARLESS
JONQUIL
GERANIUM
MIRROR
ERIN
FIREDRAKE
HAARLEM — Following movements may affect you.
FURY FEARLESS E.T.A. Gibraltar 0800/27 from Westward.
JONQUIL and GERANIUM E.T.A. p.m./27 from westwards.
Cable ship MIRROR escorted by ERIN working in position 036° 02' N. 005° 40' W.
FIREDRAKE and HAARLEM on patrol in Western and central straits respectively.
You may sight flying boat on patrol.
(Capt. S.8. 1136/26 to PANDORA).

BELGIQUE — Your 1951/15 (Disposal of crew and cargo of Belgian s.s. BELGIQUE) and my 1200/19, request early decision be given so as to avoid immobilising tonnage longer than necessary.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1215/26, to Admty.).

French Units. — 1140/26 270° Casablanca 4 miles 1 French destroyer 2 submarines steering 259°.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1251/26, to N.A. Stn.).

/ Western Patrol ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.).

Western Patrol.

Admty. 1823/21 and V.A.N.P. 2250/25.
My interpretation of Adty. 1823/21 is that V.A.N.P. in co-ordination with Admiralty will (? word omitted) (?proposed) patrol areas for ships of Western Patrol, but it is open to me to alter these patrols or operate these ships as necessary should I think fit.
Admiralty and V.A.N.P. would be informed of any such alterations. (F.O.C.N.A. 1252/26 to Admty.).

Routeing of S/M's.

S.O. Force H 1831/29/12 and My 1020/31/12.
To facilitate routeing of submarines clear of surface forces operating in Western Mediterranean, particularly when Force H is engaged, propose F.O.C.N.A. should be responsible for: (a) Routeing of submarines when west of 8° E.
(b) Passing information of own and enemy movements to submarines when west of 8° E.
(c) Informing surface ships and aircraft of movements of submarines in this area, and (d) Institution of Sanctuary when necessary. (F.O.C.N.A., 1314/26 to C.in C. Med.).

ARK ROYAL, bombs.

Your 1738/18. (Reply).
(V.A. (H) 1525/26, to Admty.).

Enemy Shipping.

Reported that German ship PLUS and Italian ships CLIZIA and CAPO LENA left Bilbao 24/2 destination unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1617/26 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.P., etc.).

HYDROUSA
AGIOS SPYRIDON
KALLIOPI
AGIOS BLASKFOS

Your 1925/25 (?1920/25) HYDROUSA being scraped. AGIOS SPYRIDON will be scraped, both will be sailed in an H.G. convoy if their speed permits. Also at Gibraltar Greek KALLIOPI speed bare 7 knots.

/ Cargo iron ore ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

HYDROUSA AGIOS SPYRIDON KALLIOPI AGIOS BLASKFOS (Contd.)	Cargo iron ore ex S.L.S.64 doing trial a.m./27 and Greek AGIOS BLASKFOS speed 5½ knots cargo Manganesite straggler from S.L.S.65 speed given at Freetown as 7 knots. This ship arrived Gibraltar instead of proceeding as directed in case of separation. All men above ship refuse to sail U.K. unless in convoy. (V.A.C.N.A. 1636/26).
Air Report.	Daily Summary Operations. Area covered 2° W. to 9° W. (200 Group, 1700/26).
OSAKA MARU	Arrived from Lisbon (Bilbao, 1845/26).
H.G.55, bunkers.	Your 1630/24 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon. (Ships for H.G.55 to be bunkered at Lisbon). This arrangement should not be continued longer than necessary owing to doubtful quality of coal available at Lisbon. (D.T.D. 1950/26 to F.O.C.N.A.).
CAVINA	Inform F.O.C.N.P., Largs. that CAVINA arrived bunkered and sailed 2330 G.M.T./26 (V. Consul, Horta, 2150/26 to Admty.).
Cable Ship.	Capt. (S) 8 1136/26 (Re movements of H.M. Ships). MIRROR escorted by ERIN now working in position 036° 06' 30" N. 006° 08' 30" W. (F.O.C.N.A. 2202/26, to PANDORA).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CUMBERLAND — T.A. Port Stanley in CUMBERLAND 28/2. Requirements. (R.A.S.A.D., 00082/26, to N.O.I.C. Falklands).

W.S.6. — Particulars of fresh water endurance of vessels included in Convoy W.S.6. (D.S.T. 0157/23 to C.in C. S.A., E.I., etc.). My 0157/26 Part 2, Fuel. (D.S.T. 0158/26). Admty. 1339/23. Estimated fuel and water requirements in tons of troop transports of Convoy W.S.6 at Freetown. (D.S.T., 0201/26, to C.in C. S.A., E.I., etc.).

SCYTHIA (W.S.6.) — Admty. 1339/23 para. 1. Numbers embarked in SCYTHIA should read as follows. (D. of S.T. 0203/23 para. 1. Numbers embarked in SCYTHIA should read as follows:- (D. of S.T. 0203/26 to C.in C. E.I.).

DUNEDIN — Your 2212/25 (DUNEDIN remaining in South Atlantic Command) and F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1515/25. Request stores may be shipped to Freetown. (DUNEDIN, 0815/26, to Admty.).

CORNWALL — Your 1231 N/25 (Programme of CORNWALL in relation to search for German raider and subsequent R.V. with W.S.6.) approved. (D.O.D.(F) 1049/26, to C.in C. S.A.).

IDOMENEUS — Overdue shipping IDOMENEUS due Capetown 23/2 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1140/26 to Admty. etc.).

CHATEAUROUX — Your 1122/22 (Conditioning CHATEAUROUX to make convoy speed) Approved. (D.T.D. 1237/26 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

/ Africa Shipping ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.8.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Africa Shipping. — Your 1821/13. Importance of shipping facilities between W. and S. Africa appreciated and Ministry of Shipping doing all in their power to meet situation short of allocating an ocean carrier for this purpose, which must be ruled out in present shipping situation. Arrangements. (D.T.D. 1239/26, to C.in C. S.A.).

THORSHAMMER — On board THORSHAMMER Oil Fuel 3600 tons whale oil 30000 barrels including sperm. (N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 1432Z/26).

SHETLAND — My 1946/16. Intend to sail SHETLAND to Bathurst 1/3 with 200 tons military stores urgently required, SHETLAND to bring to Freetown 150 native volunteers from Senegal for Free French Forces. Anticipated date of return 9/3.
(C.in C. S.A., 1717/26, to Admty.).

CORNWALL
W.S.6. — My 1231/26. CORNWALL is to leave Simonstown a.m./28 and proceed to Area L 36 B, carry out search in L. 36 B, L 36 A and K 36 until necessary to leave and proceed to St. Helena to fuel and from thence on 8/3 to rendezvous with Convoy W.S.6.
(C.in C. S.A., 2017M/26, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Kastelorizo Captured. LADYBIRD

Kastelorizo Island was attacked and occupied at dawn today Tuesday (25/2) Details not yet known. LADYBIRD entered harbour but as a result of air attacks has withdrawn and is now on passage to Cyprus. In view of air activity relief of attacking troops by permanent (?garrison) may have to be delayed until this can be done by night. Desirable so far as possible to curtail press (and) B.B.C. speculation on possible significance of occupation in order to avoid drawing attention to future operations. (C.in C. Med., 0002/26, to Admty.).

Enemy Units.

From D/F bearings there is considerable activity in sector W. and N.W. Malta. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 0139/26).

Enemy Convoy.

Convoy for Libya reported left Salerno P.M./25.
(Comdr. S.I, 1006/26, to S/M's on Patrol).

Tripoli bombed.

Operational summary No. 261 up to 1200 hrs. 26/2/1941 night 24/25 Feb.
4 Wellingtons operating from Benina dropped 10,000 lbs of bombs on Tripoli Harbour hitting Spanish Mole and starting 1 fire near main quays. Fires from large warehouse and ship started by Malta Wellingtons visible for ½ hour before aircraft reached target.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1146/26).

Ships engaging unseen a/c's.

Admty. Messages 762 A of 10/2 and 1855/20. Proposed amendments to rule H.M. Ships engaging unseen H.M. Ships engaging unseen aircraft are not considered suited to conditions in Eastern Mediterranean. My 1334/22 refers. Further signal will be made after discussion with H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. (C.in C. Med. 1212/26).

S/M movements.

From 1/3 Capt. (S) 1 to be responsible for informing Med. Fleet and R.A.F. authorities of movements of our submarines. (C.in C. Med. 1218/26).

/ TERROR (sunk 24/2) ...

War Diary. 25.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

TENEDOS (sunk 24/2) — My 1056/24. Confirmed no officers or men in TENEDOS were killed or wounded. (C.in C. Med., 1430/26, to Admty.).

Minesweeping whalers. — Admty. 2021/18 to N.O. i/c Durban. Request Confirmation that only reconditioning and degaussing is to be undertaken at Durban and that complete conversion for LL sweep will take place at Alexandria. Question of manning is being investigated. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1632/26 to Admty.).

Malta Air Report. — 0830 - 1135 Photo R.C. Tripoli Harbour Mellaha and Gulf of Gabes. No signs of any ships near Harbour entrance which might have suffered damage from Cucumbers.

Tripoli Recco. — Gulf of Gabes no shipping. Enemy air activity.

Air Raid on Luqa aerodrome. — 1145 large scale attack on Luqa Aerodrome by 30 JU.87s, 12 JU.88s escorted by 20 to 30 mixed fighters. 10 DO.215s and 1 HE.111s came in at end of attack but dropped no bombs. 8 Hurricanes up. Enemy losses by fighers, 2 JU.87s confirmed 7 others probable but not yet confirmed. By A.A. 5 JU.87s confirmed with 4 others probable. 3 of our fighters are missing. Damage Luqa Aerodrome. (details). (H.Q. R.A.F., Med., 1840/26).

PARTHIAN RORQUAL — PARTHIAN arrives Alexandria Sanctuary 0700/27 from northward. RORQUAL leaves Alexandria 1800/26 northward through 032° 00' N. 028° 30' E. and 034° 00' N. 028° 00' E., T.O.O. 1900/26. (C.in C. Med., 1926/26, to Med. Fleet).

REGENT to attack enemy convoy. — Proceed with all despatch to 033° 20' 011° 56' to intercept convoy of 5 ships escorted by 3 destroyers reported off Kelibia at 1630/26, course 180°. If not sighted by 1600/27 return to Malta as previously routed. (Comdr. S.1, 2315/26, to REGENT).

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

LEANDER. — Your 11362/25 (Account of operation by LEANDER) Yes please. (N.Z.N.B., 0126/26 to C. in C. E.I).

E.I.S. — Departure HECTOR with U.S.9. (S.O.(I) Bombay 04562/26).

CANADIAN CRUISER, use of U.S.A. markings denied. — Ref. German claim (published in papers 25/2 in Ceylon) that CANADIAN CRUISER was flying U.S. flag and carrying U.S. markings. Ship had British flag and markings when she left Colombo 5/2 and U.S. Consul witnessed her departure. (C. in C. E.I. 0512Z/26 to Admty).

State of Kismayu. — My 0746/22. One coast defence 4.8 and three 3" A.A. guns repaired Kisimayu Island ready for use p.m./25 one nine foot Barr and Stroud range finder in good condition from Mtanga is now being mounted Kisimayu Island and one further serviceable gun could also be moved from Mtanga. All other guns capable of being made serviceable in 4 to 6 weeks. Sufficient personnel to man one gun, more being asked for from South Africa.

Ample ammunition for all guns. Range table found. 3" A.A. guns can be used against surface craft up to 9,000 yards, max. range of coast defence guns is 20,000 yards P.W.S.S. established and temporary system of recognition introduced. (C. in C. E.I. 0524/26).

Massawa. — During air reconnaisance Massawa on 24/2 no A.A. Fire was encountered. This is unprecendented. (C. in C. E.I. 0526Z/26).

SOMERSETSHIRE. — (Hospital Ship) left Capetown 20/2 for Suez direct at 12 knots, due 14/3. (C. in C. E.I. 0650Z/26).

/DELHI.....

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd);

DELHI. C. in C. S.A. 1141/24. Request DELHI be routed to pass West of Reunion so as to increase possibility of intercepting French shipping on passage. (C. in C. E.I. 0922/26 to N.O.I.C.Simonstown)

AUSTRALIA. My 0452/25. (area of search for which AUSTRALIA was detailed) If no further developments, AUSTRALIA at 1430Z/26 is to sweep 18 knots towards Colombo. (C. in C. E.I., 0754Z/26 to Force V).

Transfer of aircraft. As result of capture of Mogadishu. (C. in C. E.I. 0720Z/26) See Operations Volume.

CANBERRA.
SYDNEY.
HOBART. Employment in East Indies. See Australia.

EMERALD.
HERMES.
SHROPSHIRE.
DORSETSHIRE. On completion fuelling Seychelles, EMERALD and HERMES in company are to proceed 15 knots through one and half degrees channel to Colombo. Time of departure from vicinity Denis Island to be reported from Port Victoria. EMERALD and HERMES will be known as Force T. SHROPSHIRE is to proceed 18 knots East of Madagascar to Durban and after fuelling and embarking ratings proceed Simonstown for refit. DORSETSHIRE on being relieved by GLASGOW is to proceed Mombasa arriving 1/3. (C. in C. E.I. 1108Z/26 to Force V).

AUSTRALIA. My 0754/26. AUSTRALIA is to proceed through 000° 40'S. 068° 30' and one and half channels so as to be in support of EMERALD and HERMES on passage. (C. in C. E.I. 1144Z/26 to Force V)

Sailing of Captured Italian Ships. Re collecting crews etc. (C. in C. E.I. 1148/26).

/Brava.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FORRIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Brava, conditions.

Reference to fall of Mogadiscio. Operations now proceeding on Bardera. 200 allied seaman recovered at Merka. Conditions at Brava: Pier dynamited for 40 feet at inshore end otherwise intact and being examined with a view to repair. One 3-ton and one 2-ton crane with petrol engines working, also electric light and water system. No lighters available but one large cargo boat on beach condition good. Impossible to discharge on beach owing to surf. Lighthouse in working order. (C. in C. E.I., 1202Z/26 to Admty).

ANTENOR.
AUCKLAND.
PARRAMATTA.
W.S.5.B.

26/2 arrival 0445Z departure 1530Z ANTENOR for Karachi, departure 1550Z AUCKLAND and PARRAMATTA for W.S.5B. (N.O.I.C. Aden 1550Z/26 to Admty etc).

Mogadishu Minesweeping.

Reference five "CUCUMBERS" planted at Mogadishu. Is magnetic spar sweep effective against them? This is only antidote available from Mombasa and use of anchorage is urgently required for army supplies. If magnetic spar sweep is not fully effective request I may use two LL craft of No. 108 group due Aden 27/2. Alternatively can any Wellesley aircraft be spared from canal area?. (C. in C. E.I. 1724Z/26 to Admty C. in C. Med).

AQUITANIA.

Your 0555/23. As C. in C. China has agreed in his 0301/23 that AQUITANIA can be accepted for drydocking at Singapore request vessel may be instructed accordingly. Question of 1200 Indian troops for U.K. is being dealt with separately. (D. of S.T. 1958/26 to P.S.T.O. India)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ARCHANGELOS. — Overdue Greek Steamer ARCHANGELOS Yokohama for Singapore due 21/2.
(N.C.S.O. Singapore 0337/26 to Admty).

Johore Area. — Johore Strait spoil ground area established. Position Siniop Beacon 1° 28' N. 103° 51' E. approx. (1) buoys established position 163° 6.9 cables and 156° 10.9 cables from the above light beacon, description can buoys. Painted yellow these buoys mark the northern limits of the spoil ground area.
(R.A. Malaya 0910Z/26 to China Station).

Dutch Tankers. — There are a number of Dutch Tankers in N.E.I. operated by local authorities and over which Dutch authorities in London have no control. Presumed you will concert with Dutch C. in C. action to be taken for the safety of these ships in the event of trouble with Japan.
(D.T.D. 1949/26 to C. in C. China).

America & West Indies.

LETITA. — Re Salvage (R.A. 3 1101/26).

WORCESTERSHIRE. — Your 1232/23 route considered practicable but ship should pass south of 045° N. 053° W.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1130/26).

RANPURA.
H.X. 112. — Intend sailing RANPURA as ocean escort to H.X. 112. RANPURA has been ordered to leave convoy in (? 25) West and proceed Hvalfjordur reporting E.T.A. when well clear of convoy. In view of Adty 2204/24 RANPURA is unlikely to arrive Iceland before (date).
(F.O.C.3.B.S. 1131/26).

LUNULA.
DRAMATIST. — Ministry of Shipping 0920/30/1 and 1725/3/2 British Ships LUNULA DRAMATIST not arrived.
(S.O.I. Jamaica 1217/26 to Admty C. in C. A.W.I).

/Contraband.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

Contraband Control Bermuda.	Your 1012/25/1 referred by M.E.W. to Ambassador Washington 2/2 and Consul General, New York, has investigated. Line has again instructed their officers to give every assistance during examination of ships at Bermuda. Lesson proposed in your final paragraph not concurred in by Admiralty, who hope you will have no further cause for complaint. M.E.W. unable to alter decision regarding holdback guarantees. (D.E.W.D. 1531/26 to C. in C. A.W.I).
ATHELREGENT	ATHELREGENT due 24/2 is to take cargo from ATHELQUEEN and return to U.K. Ship should be recalled if sailed. (D.T.D. 1944/26 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).
PRINCE HENRY, armed guard in Panama Canal.	Ambassador Washington telegram 455. 29/1 to F.O. PRINCE HENRY passed through Panama Canal 26/2 and submitted to U.S. Armed Guard being placed on board. C.O. agreed to procedure "without prejudice to future instructions or actions in the matter which may be issued or taken by my Government". Letter to this effect addressed General Commanding was handed to U.S. Boarding Officer. This action was in general agreement with my verbal instructions before sailing from Bermuda. Minister Panama has suggested withdrawal of letter which I consider should not be done. Request guidance. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2341/26 to Admty) Reply: 1953/27.

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

A.M.C's.

My 1216Z/21. Anticipate next two A.M.C's will sail from Australia early in June. Owing to endurance of these vessels route through 1½° channel is not suitable but would be acceptable if tanker could be made available en route. Propose A.C.N.B. sail these ships for Colombo when ready and you arrange onward passage. Recommended that most suitable speed for these ships is 11 knots. (A.C.N.B. 0539Z/26 to C. in C. E.I).

CANBERRA.
SYDNEY.
HOBART.

In view of presence of pocket Battleship in Indian Ocean CANBERRA SYDNEY and HOBART will be placed under your orders until required for escorting of U.S.10 unless strategic situation materially alters. SYDNEY and HOBART will be at your disposal after arrival Fremantle on Tuesday 4/3. (A.C.N.B. 0737/26 to C. in C. E.I).

New Zealand.

AORANGI.
AWATEA.
escort.

Navy Office Wellington's 0702Z/25. To confirm para. 4 of Admty. 1737/21. Suggestion is that one Canadian A.M.C. should be based on Suva, observing that N.S.H.Q. Ottawa has already agreed in principle to employment of Canadian A.M.Cs as escort for AORANGI and AWATEA.
(D.O.D.(F) 1732/26 to Navy Office, Wellington

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PLUS.
CLIZIA.
CAPO LENA.

PLUS CLIZIA, CAPO LENA left Bilbao 24/2 destination not known. (Bilbao, 1845/26)

LUSEL.

Arrived from Vigo German ship said to be LUSEL 25/2. (Bilbao, 1958/26).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

COURONNE.

Arrived from France. (Bilbao, 1958/26).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MARGHERA.
CARSO.

Your 1855/23 (C. in C. E.I. 0656/26 to Admty) Yes. Enquiries being made to obtain services of Salvage Firm from South Africa or failing that of a Salvage Tug and Drivers from same source. PROTECTOR may be available shortly. (C. in C. E.I. 0656/26 to Admty).

CLIZIA.)
CAPO LENA.)

See German Merchant Ships.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

DIALA.
(torpedoed 25/2)

British tanker 8106 tons. In Convoy O.B. 290. Following has been read. SSSS de GPK. DIALA torpedoed 55.50 N, 14.00 W. 0025. (Port Patrick Radio 0048/26)
NOTE:- This information previously received by message timed 1248/25.
Detach one corvette to stand by DIALA torpedoed in 055° 50'N. 014° 00'W. at 0025/26.
Tug SUPERMAN is being sent escorted by trawler. Ship detached to report name when well clear of convoy.
(C. in C. W. A. 0232/26 to ENCHANTRESS).
Proceed to position 090° 3 miles from Inishtrahall Light so as to R/V with MAN O WAR at 1200 to-day proceeding thence in company to assist DIALA torpedoed in 055° 50'N. 014° 00'W. at 0025 to-day.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0250/26 to SUPERMAN).
Sailed SUPERMAN to the assistance of DIALA.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0350/26 to Admty).

BORGLAND.

Norwegian, 3636 tons. In Convoy O.B. 290. Have all survivors S.S. BORGLAND. Am standing by torpedoed ship proceeding North Channel. (PIMPERNEL 0400/26 to C. in C.W.A). (D.S. 540).

BRITISH GUNNER.
MANSEPOOL.
(torpedoed 24/2).

Weather conditions improving request assistance of aircraft to locate damaged ship now estimated to be between 060° and 061° N. 012° and 014° W. (CLARKIA 0530/26 to C. in C. W.A).

KASONGO.
BORGLAND.
DIALA.

KASONGO (Belgian 5254 tons, in Convoy O.B. 290. sunk, survivors on board CAMPANULA. PIMPERNEL with crew of abandoned BORGLAND on board, ordered to stand by and report to C. in C. W.A. repeated WHITEHALL if salvageable. CAMPANULA escorting DIALA to Clyde. (CAMPANULA 0615/26 to C. in C.W.A).
W.D. Note:- KASONGO was wrongly named in this signal as KATANGA. KASONGO sailed Belfast for O.B. 290 24/2 - see N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1000/24.

/G.C. BROVIG.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd).

G.C. BROVIG.
(torpedoed 24/2)

When no longer required for BROVIG proceed R.V. with PRUDENT and RESTIVE who are proceeding towards 061° 07' N. 013° 10'W. Tugs position at 1000/26 059° 20'N. 007° 40'W. speed 10 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 0955/26 to PETUNIA).
Your 0955/26. RESTIVE sailing.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1347/26 to C. in C.W.A).
Abandoned BORGLAND 055° 53'N. 013° 33'W. sinking. All crew safe. Returning with 95 survivors. (PIMPERNEL, 1800/26).
BORGLAND steering 080° 6 knots position 055° 53'N. 14° 0' W. escort. (PIMPERNEL 1330/26).

BRITISH GUNNER.
(torpedoed 24/2

Your 1125/26. BRITISH GUNNER last reported in 61° 15' N. 12° 20' W. at 1700/24.
PETUNIA has been ordered to R.V. with and escort you. RESTIVE leaves Stornoway at 1400 today to join you. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1358/26 to PRUDENT).
C. in C. W.As' 1230/26. PRUDENT is proceeding to 61° 15' N. 12° 20'W. and expects to arrive there at 1900 to-day.
RESTIVE and PETUNIA are to proceed to this position as soon as possible.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1421/26 to PETUNIA, RESTIVE).

JONATHAN HOLT.
MANSEPOOL.
BRITISH GUNNER.

Following survivors landed Stornoway by PETUNIA from ships torpedoed in convoy O.B. 289. One from JONATHAN HOLT. 22 from MANSEPOOL, 17 believed to be picked up by another ship, 2 killed. 44 from BRITISH GUNNER, 3 killed. 4 survivors being detained in hospital.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1613/26 to Admty).

MANSEPOOL.

NORTHERN SPRAY SALVONIA and SEAMAN are to proceed in company as soon as possible to assistance of MANSEPOOL last reported in 61° 02'N. 12° 05'W. at 1700/24.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 165[illegible]/26 to NORTHERN SPRAY, SALVONIA, SEAMAN) W.D. Note:- This was cancelled by 0005/27.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Hebrides.
Iceland.

Between 2326/25 and 0121/26, six messages have been transmitted by German U-Boats. No definite D/F fixes obtainable but probable that one or more U-Boats were reporting positions of ships between Hebrides and Iceland. Possible that T.C.9 has not yet been reported. (D.D.I.C. 0208/26).

0125.

Message AF. Position 55° 50' N: 14° W. at 0025/26 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0221/26 to G.B.M.S. Area 1).

23/2.

Following from Navy Dept. U.S. ship COAMO reports being challenged by radio by unidentified submarine 0408 zone four plus 23/2 in position 68° 30' W. 24° 4'N. Submarine refused to identify headed west and submerged. Ship will be interrogated further. Submarine was not American. (N.A. Washington 1555/26 to Admty).

1118.

D/F Bearings at 1118/26 indicate possibility of U-Boat in 52° N. 6° 50' W. Bearings unreliable. (D.D.I.C. 1602/26).
D/F report of U-Boat in 52° 00' N. 06° 50' W. at 1115/26, position approx. Aircraft searching. Send one trawler to patrol Eastern End of Q.Z.F. 18 to keep U-Boat down. (C. in C. Plymouth 1646/26 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
D/F Bearings at 1118/26 indicate possibility of U/B in 052° N. 006° 50' W. Bearings unreliable.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2218/26 to French Sloop Minesweeper LA MOQUEASO, Netherlands S/M's 021, 023.).

/Estimated.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

Estimated Dispositions.

German.
One 60° 30' N. - 61° 30'N. 11° W. - 14° W.
One 60° N. - 61° 30' N. 19° W. - 21° W.
One 60 miles of 60° N. 25° W.
2 58° N. - 60° N. 19° W. - 22° W.
Possibly 1 56° - 57° N. 19° W. - 20° W.
One 40 miles of 59° N. 16° W.
One 59° N. - 60° N. 11° W. - 13° W.
One 30 miles of 58° N. 12° 30'W.
Possibly one 30 miles of Butt of Lewis.
One about 55° N. 16° W. with O.B. 290.
One 54° N. - 55° 30' N. 20° W. - 22° W.
One 53° N. - 54° N. 19° W. - 21° W.
One 60 miles of 48° N. 7° 30' W. may be patrolling.

Italian.
One 40 miles of 55° 20' N. 21° 30' W.
2 or 3 more in N.W. Approaches.
One about 46° 30' N. 6° W. en route Bordeaux.
(D.D.I.C. 1256/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation by small craft.

M.T.B's and M.L's of Nore Command patrolled last night off the East Coast with the object of counter attacking E/Boats.

A/A protection in N.W. Approaches.

Two military personnel with M.G.Equipment are to be allocated to all British vessels sailing independently or in O.B.Convoys, as in the case of vessels on the East Coas

U/Boat Campaign.

S.S. BALTISTAN dispersed from convoy O.B.290 was torpedoed early this morning in 51° 52'N., 10° 55'W.

Submarine reports to be made in Plian Language.

The Admiralty have concurred in principle with the suggestion of C.in C. H.F. that submarine reports shall be made in plain language.

British Air Activity.

27 Coastal Command aircraft bombed Havre today.

Very bad weather caused flying to be severely restricted today, and all "Strikes" for tonight were cancelled.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. ANCHISES sailing independently, was bombed and damaged this morning about 175 miles West of Bloody Foreland and was later abandoned.

Attack on Convoy F.S.21.

S.S. OLD CHARLTON in Convoy F.S.21 was bombed and sunk and S.S. BLACKTOFT was bombed and damaged this afternoon off Harwich. S.S. GALLOIS and DASHWOOD in the same convoy were slightly damaged when the convoy was attacked this morning.

A/S Trawlers were unsuccessfully attacked by an aircraft off Plymouth this afternoon.

A Heinkel bombed Yarmouth this morning and is believed to have been shot down by trawlers.

Mining.

Operation J.L.

D.20 in INTREPID with IMPULSIVE and ICARUS escorted by 2 destroyers last night carried out a minelaying operation in the Channel. Blenheim aircraft carried out a diversion by bombing Havre, to cover the operation.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Contd.)

Mining off the Mersey.

S.S. CAPE CLEAR in Convoy H.X.1 08 was damaged by a mine this morning off great Orme's Head and was towed into the Mersey.
S.S. MANCHESTER EXPORTER was mined about an hour later near the same position and entered the Mersey under her own power.

Humber.

H.M.T REMILLO was mined and sunk in the Humber early this morning.

Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary, off the Mumbles, Falmouth, Milford Haven, Plymouth and the Humber.

Mediterranean.

PERMOY was bombed off the Grand Harbour Malta this afternoon, but was not damaged.

Four mines exploded at Malta today; a local diesel engined boat was blown up.

9 Blenheims escorted by 9 Hurricanes attacked Valona aerodrome today and report 9 enemy aircraft destroyed.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

RAMBI sunk.

Italian S.S. RAMBI engaged LEANDER when ordered to stop this morning and was sunk by fire from LEANDER in position 1° 0'N., 68° 30'E. (about 250 miles W.S.W. of the Maldive Is.) LEANDER was not damaged. RAMBI was a raider which left Massawa 20/2 with orders to proceed towards N.E.I; her intention was to attack trade while on passage.

Search for Raider.

CORNWALL is to patrol in the Capetown area. DORSETSHIRE is to remain with GLASGOW and Force Z pending further orders. CANBERRA and LEANDER are to R/V and to remain in the central Indian Ocean area for the present.

MOST SECRET.

27. 2. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

ARROW. ARROW is to be transferred to Home Fleet. (C. in C. W.A. 0918/27.)

Two destroyers required as Convoy A/S. escort. Adty., 1956/26. WIVERN and VANSITTART are the only two V's here, and WIVERN, due for docking and boiler cleaning, is planned to dock today. If WIVERN is not docked now the docking programme already tight will become tighter still as these Frenchmen must be docked shortly. If a V Destroyer can be scraped up from some other source it will repay us well in the end. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1017/27 to Adty.)

Your 1017/27. Your desire to adhere to your refitting programme is fully appreciated, but regret that WIVERN must sail to escort REPULSE and convoy. (A.C.N.S. H. 1205/27.)

Ships firing at Unseen A/C. 384. My 1140/22. I concur also with C. in C. Portsmouth's 1437/24. (C. in C. Nore 1301/27.)

A.M. 70 A.Z. of 28/1/41. It is considered that a further months trial of the northerly dividing line is desirable, particularly since the new W.A.Command has only recently come into operation. (C. in C. H.F. 1921/27.)

Submarines as Convoy Escorts. Admiralty letter M.04446/40 of 29th March to be amended as follows:-

Instructions given in paragraph 3 under heading of "Destroyer Escort not present by day", to be amended to read "The action to be taken depends on the object ordered for the submarines. When present as a defence against surface raiders the submarine should not abandon the convoy for the purpose of stalking the U - Boat. (A.C.N.S. T. 2030/27.)

MOST SECRET.

27. 2. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/27. (D.C. 1207/27.)

Movements.

CORBOPSIS. Sailed for Gibraltar to overtake O.G. 54, and to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1346/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0745/27.)

SHEFFIELD. My 2005/14. 2. SHEFFIELD was ordered
DIDO. to break off (from Convoy S.L.65) in latitude 50° N., or as near as fuel allowed and proceed to Gibraltar.

3. Request you will sail one DIDO class cruiser at best possible speed to join SL 65 and provide A/A escort to North Channel. (1st. S.L. 0946/27.)

Admiralty's 0946/27. (paragraph (iii). Proceed when ready to comply, at best speed consistent with weather conditions Route via Minch if practicable and thence direct. (C. in C. H.F. 1219/27 to DIDO.)

REGISTAN
CORINTHIAN You are requested to sail REGISTAN for Q three and CORINTHIAN for O. three - P three when ready. (F.O.C.N.P. 1010/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

PEGASUS. PEGASUS is to act in accordance with my 1815/20 as amended by my 1058/25. (C. in C. W.A. 1107/27.)

FURIOUS. FURIOUS will not be required to sail until 4/3. Ship may be at extended notice until that date to enable her to complete any necessary repairs. (A.C.N.S. H. 1231/27.)

/0.23.....

MOST SECRET.

27. 2. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

O.23.	Amend E.T.A. 270° Longships 3 miles to 0400/28. (O.23. 1358/27.) E.T.A. Longships now 1100/28. (O.23 2116/27.)
Northern Patrol.	Trawler line to-night. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1536/27.)
S/M's.	Positions at 0800/28 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1726/27.)
A.M.C.'s. for Iceland.	Your 1448/16. Request you will report sailing dates when known and also how many passengers could be taken on from Reykjavik to Halifax by the A.M.C. which will be relieved in each case.(D.O.D.H. 1858/27 to F.O.C.N.P.)
AURORA.	AURORA is to sail from Clyde A.M. 2nd March and proceed to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1941/27 to AURORA.)

Operations.

Operation against E-Boats.	Owing to weather Motor Launches have been ordered to proceed into Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 0111/27.)
MINORCA. (Torpedoed by E-Boat 26/2.)	S.S. RUDMORE landed 4 survivors and 3 dead from MINORCA at Hartlepool. Survivors state MINORCA torpedoed by E-boat at 0220/26 when in F.N.17 off Wheringham Shoal. Names of survivors and dead. 10 survivors are at Howbeck Hospital, Hartlepool. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1052/27.)

MOST SECRET.

27. 2. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Patrol Stand taken off at 0315 and patrol Bert 0630.(C. in C. Rosyth 0228/27.)

My 0228. Patrol STAND cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 0530/27.)

My 0228. Patrol BERT cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 0614/27.)

No flying by 18 Group A/C possible at present. (C. in C. Rosyth 0812/27.)

Kites and Balloons. Flying Instructions.

The following instructions for the flying of kites and balloons by H.M.Ships Merchant Ships, and Fishing Vessels are to be substituted for all previous instructions which are hereby cancelled.

These instructions are subject to any local restrictions that may be imposed by C. in C's abroad in their respective areas. (A.C.N.S.T. 1054/27.)

Enemy Air Activity.

ANCHISES.

(British, 10,000 Tons) Attacked in 55° 14' N. 13° 17' W. (Valentia Radio 0826/27.)

Require assistance. Hold flooded and preparing to abandon ship, position 55° 14' N. 13° 17' W. (ANCHISES 0930/27.)

From ANCHISES. Please send tugs at once. May be possible save ship. (Valentia Radio 0953/27.)

If in the vicinity proceed with SUPERMAN to assist. Report situation.
(C. in C. W.A. 1045/27 to MAN OF WAR.)

Am proceeding to assist ANCHISES.
(ENCHANTRESS 1129/27.)

/S.O.S.....

MOST SECRET.

27. 2. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

S.O.S. approx. position 55° 16' N. 13° W., drifting N.E. one knot. Assistance required urgent by ship sinking in very heavy weather. (ANCHISES 1804/27) (C.G. Port Patrick Radio 1804/27.)

My position 055° 34' N, 012° 43' W., course 210 degs., search to Leeward of original position. Fruitless. (ENCHANTRESS 1945/27.) Wind Direction W.210. Force of Wind 7.

Position of ANCHISES at 1807, 55° 16' N, 13° W, drifting N.E. one knot. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1955/27, to SUPERMAN.)

Convoy O.B.200.
(Bombed 26/2.)
AMSTELLAND.
RYDBOHOLM.
LEEDS-CITY.
BEURSPLEIN.
MAHANADA.
SWINBURNE.

Departure Greenock 27/2. NORTHERN SPRAY and SALVONIA. Tug HEAHAM unable to proceed owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Stornoway 0855/27.)

Have AMSTELLAND in tow. Ship will not steer. Heavy forward. Can be salved. Bulkhead five perforated. Wind direction 240 force 5. (WESTON 1000/27.)

My 0005/27. SALVONIA and NORTHERN SPRAY are to proceed in company to assist. RYDBOHOLM abandoned and salvageable in 55° 48' N. 14° 25' W, at 1330/26. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1010/27.)

Your 2202/26.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.(Contd).

Your 2202/26 and 0903/27. Convoy dispersed in 053° 55'N. 017° W. at 2000/26. WHITEHALL and WINCHELSEA trying to tow LEEDS CITY engine disabled in position 053° 50'N. 017° 30' W. Wind Direction 240 Force 5. (WHITEHALL 1016/27).

Tow parted. Starboard engine out of action. (WESTON 1035/27).

From ANCHISES. Please send tugs at once. May be possible save ship. (Valentia Radio 0953/27).

VANQUISHER standing by AMSTELLAND. WESTON returning with survivors. (WESTON 1120/27).

Standing by AMSTELLAND position 053° 52' N. 016°26' W. BEURSPLEIN 13 miles 245° from her, abandoned but floating well, fire still smouldering, salvage possible, no visible damage to hull. MAHANADA 10 miles north of BEURSPLEIN still afloat but burning fiercely salvage unlikely. SWINBURNE presumably sunk. Am endeavouring to keep in touch with both. Following survivors on board, BEURSPLEIN 8, SWINBURNE 47, MAHANADA 58. (VANQUISHER 1345/27).

Convoy O.B. 290 was attacked at 1000/26 by 1 F.W.C. A/C under cover of Hail Storm. SOLFERINO and MELMORE hit and abandoned Greek KYRIAKOULA abandoned apparently undamaged at 1845/26 O.B. 290 attacked from astern by formation of 4 A/C F.W.C's and H.E. 111's Part 2 follows. (WESTON 1400/27 Part 1, circulated as WESTON 1420/27).

My 1400 part 2. Aircraft avoided escort vessel when possible. Vessel hit SOVAC MAHANADA and BEURISPLEIN burning out. LLANWERN sunk AMSTELLAND hit by 3 bombs number 1 and 3 hold flooded. Propeller out of water crew still on board will remain afloat part 3 and final following. (WESTON 1421/27).

/My.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday:

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd).

My 1400 part 3 and final.

One F.W.C. hit by WESTON's barrage and later repeatedly hit by 5. Jettisoned bombs 1 mile from convoy, gained height, and then seen descending in distance. (WESTON 1400/27).

Second attack on Convoy F.S.21. BLACKTOFT damaged OLD CHARLTON sunk.

One enemy aircraft shadowing 030 distance 2 miles in 51° 37' N. 1° 13' E. course 223, speed 7 knots. (VANITY 1552/27).

(British 1109 Tons) At 1803/27 Departure Rescue Tug KENIA to assist S.S. BLACKTOFT. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1813/27).

S.S. OLD CHARLTON reported sunk in about 51° 57' N. 01° 40' E.

Wreck probably dangerous to navigation. Request Q.Z.H. may be issued. (C. in C. Nore 2205/27 and 2351/27).

WINCHELSEA has LEEDS CITY in tow. Position course and speed at 1400/27 053° 42' N, 017° 30' W, 074 deg. 3 to 4 knots. Request tugs and escort may be sent as WHITEHALL will have to return to base for fuel p.m. 1st March at the latest. (WHITEHALL 1624/27).

My 1345/27. Weather deteriorating, water gaining in AMSTELLAND, tugs urgently required. Crew still on board, Am standing by. (VANQUISHER 1703/27).

Your 1624/27. Act as escort to WINCHELSEA until Force returns for fuel. (C. in C. W.A. 1913/27 to WHITEHALL).

Your 1703/27. Regret no chance of tugs before noon tomorrow Friday. (C. in C. W.A. 1945/27 to VANQUISHER).

/Unknown.....

MOST SECRET.

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27.2.1941.
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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd).

Unknown ship attacked.

AAAA from unknown ship attacked off Shipwash Dashwood by aircraft. (N. Foreland Radio 1010/27).

VANITY. (Convoy F.S.21).

One Aeroplane, course 150, height 2000 feet, posn. 52° 5' N. 1° 51' E. (VANITY 1012/27).

My 1012. Machine gunning. (VANITY 1013/27).

Lowestoft.

At 1105 Dornier dropped five bombs near misses North Pier extension. A to D - Nil. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1128/27).

At 1605 single enemy A/C bombed South Lowestoft some civilian casualties. A to D. nil. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1658/27).

GALLOIS. (British, 2684 Tons)

6 miles South of Shipwash attacked by aircraft. (N. Foreland Radio 1150/27).

Yarmouth bombed.

Heinkel III bombed Yarmouth at 1145. Paragraphs (A) (B) (C) (D) Nil.

Aircraft was fired at by Trawlers, left flying East with one engine stopped. M.L's entering harbour engaged and are sure that they hit. Last seen losing height and just above surface with tail well down and smoke from starboard engine. Consider certain casualty. Weather too rough to investigate. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1250/27).

Thames Estuary.

Summary of explosions etc. in Thames estuary for night of 26/27.
2000. Bomb exploded on striking water about 1 mile 225 deg. from the end of Southend pier.
2010. Group of about 25 amber flares fell slowly in area approx. between Birchington and Herne Bay.
0605. Heavy explosion probably in sea to South West of Medway gate. No aircraft in vicinity. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1305/27).

/TENERIFFA.....

MOST SECRET.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd).

TENERIFFA.
(Bombed 26/2).

37 survivors being entire crew of Norwegian TENERIFFA sunk by enemy aircraft off St. Goven Light Vessel at 1405/26 picked up by S.S. PERDITA and disembarked at Cardiff. Three men detained in hospital with minor injuries. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1445/27).

EMPIRE STEELHEAD.
(Bombed 26/2).

My 2009/26/2. EMPIRE STEELHEAD anchored off Invergordon. Damage is internal, structural only, not affecting main machinery or boilers. Vessel is seaworthy and could proceed under own steam, except for previous defect of steering engine. Hand steering from aft is possible but Master is averse to accept risk. Repairs to D.G. also necessary. Request instructions for destination of ship when ready. Casualties are 5 killed 2 since died of injuries and 3 now in R.N.A.H. suffering from minor injuries.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1522/27).

Grimsby bombed.

Four bombs dropped by low flying aircraft at 1308 on Grimsby. No Naval damage except windows in officers quarters at Royal Hotel. (F.O. Humber 1658/27).

Cardiff bombed.

Cardiff was attacked last night by 70 - 80 enemy A/C between 1945 and 2200.
A large number of H.E. and incendiary bombs were dropped. The enemy attacked mainly singly and used flares followed by incendiaries and H.E's.
Only slight damage caused in docks where the Britannia Fuel Works and cattle lairage were damaged.
In Cardiff and district a number of public buildings and dwelling houses were damaged.
Casualties 10 killed, 30 seriously injured, 60 slightly injured. No Naval casualties.
A number of bombs fell on the mud on the foreshore and in open country N.E. of Cardiff.
On the weather deteriorating about 2200, the attack terminated.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1745/27).

Plymouth.

One Dornier A/C attacked A/S Trawlers off Plymouth at 1620/27 with Bombs and Machine-Guns. No casualties. (C. in C. Plymouth 2353/27).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation JL.

Operation J L completed. Nothing to report. (Capt. D.20 0441/27).

My 2147/26. Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0521/27).

CAPE CLEAR.

(British, 5085 Tons) CAPE CLEAR believe struck mine near Great Ormes Head. Require tug, making water slowly. (Lyness W/T 0737/27).

S.S. CAPE CLEAR 5085 tons near mined 53° 27' N. 4° 01' W. at 0857 today. Now anchored at Bar and will be brought up Harbour Friday. Reported some damage in engine room only. Hull intact. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2153/27).

9th M/S. F.

A.M. 1924/26. Request 9th M/S Flot. be sailed to arrive Port ZA p.m. Monday 3rd March. (R.A.M.L. 0956/27 to A.C.O.S).

ZME. 21.

Intend leaving Milford Haven 1700 to-day for operation Z.M.E. 21 to lay at 2340 returning on completion about 0500/28. (PLOVER 1055/27).

My 1055/27 postponed 24 hours Weather unsuitable. (PLOVER 1632/27).

REMILLO sunk.

(A/P Trawler) At 0158 today sunk by underwater explosion in N.W. by N. of Gate 2 cables. No survivors landed so far. (F.O. Humber 1130/27);

Wreck of H.M.T. REMILLO lies in 274° Spurn Point Light House 1.76 miles heading South. Two mast showing 8 feet and funnel awash at low water. (F.O. Humber 1830/27).

/Search.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Search of War Channel.	Subject to weather condition Oropesa searches from 2 to 3 miles East of dividing line AZ 787 and QZS 160 between May Island and Duncansby Head will be carried out on 1st March and completed by 1800. (C. in C. Rosyth 1159/27).
Reinforcing of a certain minefield.	C. in C. Plymouth 1258/27. See Operations Volume.
Thames Estuary.	Mine detonated by S.A. gear at 0935/27 as follows. (Capt M/S Sheerness 1417/27).
Swansea.	My 2209/20 and 1548/25. Ships with I C engines may now enter and leave Swansea. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1436/27).
	At 1615/27 one Red Mine exploded by S.A. 102° 1.6 miles from Mumbles Head Light. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1855/27).
Off Clacton.	My 1552. Consider Aircraft probably laid mine in about 51° 41'N. 1° 19'E. (VANITY 1607/27).
CHRISTABELLE.	Aberdeen trawler OCEAN PRINCESS A 580 reported at 2020/26 Aberdeen trawler CHRISTABELLE A 360 blew up and sank with all hands in 061° 27' N. 006° 05' W. Supposed cause floating mine. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1630/27).
Falmouth.	Mine exploded in 50° 7' 45" N. 5° 1' 30" W. S.W. gale blowing no ships in vicinity. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1740/27).
Milford Haven.	One red mine detonated by single LL in 097° St. Ann's Head 12.7 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1801/27).

/Plymouth.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd).

Plymouth.

One mine exploded spontaneously at 2315/26 close South of Penlee Point. One mine detonated at 0824/27 in 3° Breakwater Fort 9 cables by S.A. Gear. (C. in C. Plymouth 1807/27).

1 parachute mine reported dropped in position 165 degrees Rame Head 3 miles. Aircraft engaged by Penlee pom-pom battery and believed hit. (C. in C. Plymouth 2353/27).

Spurn Point.

At 1552 L.L. Trawlers detonated a Red mine in 304° 17.3 miles from Spurn Point Lighthouse. (F.O. Humber 2240/27).

Enemy Intelligence.

Naval Unit Movements.

German W/T activity suggests preparations for movements of Naval Units from the S.W. Norwegian Coast to the Bight. (D.D.I.C. 1201/27).

W.T.I. indicates.
1. Coastal traffic between Naze and Bergen possibly in preparation for a movement of vessels towards Trondheim.
2. Possible E/B activity from Calais tonight. (D.D.I.C. 1904/27).

German Main Units.

February 26th. Wilhelmshaven. TIRPITZ still in Bauhafen. Bremen. SEYDLITZ still in Werfthaven. (D.D.I.C. 1553/27).

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

General.

Convoy routes in 70 AZ.	C. in C. Rosyth's 1203/26. Concur except that consider line should run from Cape Wrath to Faroes and thence to Iceland. The 50 miles margin to the eastward authorised by C. in C. W.As' 1921/2 has proved of value but it is insufficient and a rigid line well clear of the convoy routes is considered essential. (C. in C.W.A. 1532/27, to Admty).
A/A Guns, O.B. Convoys.	Two military personnel with their M/G equipment drawn from the U.K. A.A. Coastal Shuttle Service are to be allocated to all British vessels sailing independently or in O.B. convoys. Conditions. Admiralty 1619/14 and 2312/26 and T.D. Memo D.E.M.S. No. 140 of 18/2 cancelled. (D.T.D. 1546/27 to A.I.G. 47 etc).
Submarines as Convoy Escorts.	Head of M. 2030/27. See Policy.

Coastal Convoys.

F.S.23.	Sailed 2300/26, 23 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0050/27) Convoy scattered, expect 8 hours late. (WALLACE to C. in C. Rosyth 0912/27) 4 ships returned Methil (C. in C. Rosyth 1316/27) Position (WALLACE, 1349/27, PYTCHLEY, 1524/27) HEBE to join (C. in C. Rosyth 1921/27) Numbers (C. in C. Rosyth 1627/27) E.T.A. (WALLACE 1654/27) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1742/27). 10 ships from Methil did not sail (C. in C. Rosyth 1933/27) 6 ships joining from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber 2255/27, C. in C. Rosyth, 2315/27).
F.S. 22.	Sailed 0200 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0210/27) 10 ships (0947/27) No ships from Blyth (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0949/27, C. in C. Rosyth, 1109/27) Situation (WESTMINSTER 1630/27) NEWFOUNDLAND E.T.A. (WESTMINSTER, 1707/27).

/W.N. 91.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

W.N. 91.	List (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0947/27) Amending 1905/26. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1516/27)
F.N. 17.	2 Absentees (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0948/27) Humber ships arrived (exceptions) (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1006/27) Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1254/17).
F.N. 18.	E.T.A. (SOUTHDOWN, 0900/27) Numbers from Tyne, etc. (C. in C. Rosyth 1232/27 to SOUTHDOWN, etc) List (N.C.S.O. Humber 1515/27. To join (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1743/27) E.T.A. SOUTHDOWN 1900/27).
Penzance.	My 1729/26. "Slave" postponed 24 hours, weather. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1421/27).
9 M.V's.	My 2312/26. Postponed 24 hours, weather. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1307/27).
F.S.19.	My 1913, LEVENWOOD and LINWOOD arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames 1451/27).
E.N. 77.	Position, BALMAHA straggled (ULLSWATER 1506/27).
F.S. 21.	Position, 59 ships for London (N.C.S.O. Thames 1514/27) VANITY to remain until relieved by CATTISTOCK (C. in C. Nore 2209/27).
Dartmouth.	Your 1217/26 arrived less NELLIE. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth to N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1534/27).
W.N. 91 (O)	Sailed 1555/27, WOLVES, 1 ship (N.C.S.O. Oban 1556/27).

/E.N. 78.....

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

E.N. 78.	List (N.C.S.O. Methil 1606/27) 1345/27 escorts, 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1657/27).
F.N. 19.) F.S. 24.)	Corrections to 1832/23 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1715/27).
W.N. 90.	Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 1800/27).
E.N. 77 U.	Arrived 1500/27, 15 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1805/27).
F.S. 23.) F.N. 21.)	Corrections to 1832/23 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1931/27).
C.W. 27.	Arrived less STANWOLD (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2013/27).

Ocean Convoys.

H.X. 111.	ANNAVORE returning, unable to maintain speed. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 0146/27).
H.X. 108.	Arrivals (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0930/27) (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1531/27) (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1540/27) (N.O.I.C. Barry, 2025/27).
O.B. 292.	0600/1/3, unescorted, 1. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0900/27).
O.B.M. 292.	Amend 1003/27 to read 1900/27, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, 4 (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1051/27).
S.C. 24.	Destinations (D.T.D. 1332/27) Request names of non-arrivals (D.T.D., 1333/27 to N.C.S.O. Aultbea).

/S.L. 65.....

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.
(contd).

S.L. 65.	Escorted by SHEFFIELD and BULOLO, position and route. One DIDO class to join. (D.O.D.(H) 0946/27 to C. in C. H.F) Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D. 1912/27).
H.G. 55.	List and destinations (F.O.C.N.A. 1155/27).
B.H.X. 119.	Advance sailing telegram (Bermuda 1201/27).
S.C. 22.	Position (ANTELOPE, 1330/27) Requesting names non-arrivals. (D.T.D., 1333/27 to N.C.S.O. Aultbea) Reply (N.C.S.O Aultbea 1545/27).
O.B. 291.	Sailed 1435/27, 9 ships (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1510/27) List 1511/27) ABERDEEN to leave (C. in C. W.A. 1550/27) Escorts (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1745/27).
O.B.O. 291.	0530/28, escort CALDWELL, 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1530/27).
O.B. 292.	ABERDEEN to accompany (C. in C. W.A. 1550/27)
O.B. 293.	Sailing 3/3 No Loch Ewe portion (C. in C W.A. 1657/27).
O.B. 297.	Sailing 13/3 No Loch Ewe portion (C. in C. W.A. 1657/27, amended 0939/28).
S.C. 22 B.C.	Estimate will meet O.B.C. 291 in Clyde about 0100/28 (C. in C. W.A. 1751/27 to ACHATES).
H.X. 112.	Destinations (D.T.D. 1754/27).
O.B.M. 292.	List and E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1915/27) 1902/27, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, 4 (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1915/27).
H.X. 109.	Destinations (D.T.D 2127/27, 2128/27, 2129/27

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

MILITARY CONVOYS.

WATERMEYER. — My 1235/24 and N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1629/25 addressed N.O.I.C. Aberdeen. Request drydock may be made available for WATERMEYER at first opportunity in view of importance attaching to her early sailing for Capetown.

Date when dock is available should be communicated immediately. (D. of S.T. 0943/27)

HAVELOCK. — Request you sail HAVELOCK to r/v with PORTH RIMUTAKA, BATORY escorted by HESPERUS, HARVESTER, and HURRICANE at 1830/28 in 000° En Troddy 1½ miles speed of advance 13 knots. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1051/27).

STRATHMORE. — My 2144/15 and my 1323/23.

1. STRATHNAVER will not now be available. Her place will be taken by STRATHMORE sailing from Liverpool.

2. STRATHMORE will be ready to leave Liverpool on 4/3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for her to sail and join the convoy.

3. STRATHMORE is required to sail with W.S. 7 and should return from Gibraltar to Clyde with the minimum delay. (D.O.D.H. 1103/27).

ALCANTARA. — My 1613/26 sailed (C. in C. Portsmouth 1906/27).

T.C.9. — Arrived Convoy T.C.9 with AURORA OTTAWA ASSINIBOINE RESTIGOUCHE CHURCHILL MISTRAL. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2310/27).

DUNEDIN. — A.T. 2215/27. Cancel my 2212/25 except para one. (D.O.D.F. 2330/27).

MOST SECRET.

27. 2. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

EMPIRE TIGER. (British, 5159 tons) Shipping heavy seas, fore welldeck awash. Standing by boat ends. (Valentia Radio 0025/27.)

Our boats washed away, please hurry. (Valentia Radio, 0212/27.)

SUFFOLK. Examination of machinery on return to Harbour 26/2, has shown port after turbine engine stripped and several tubes in port after condensor damaged as result. Ship unable to proceed to sea. (SEO. 1st. C.S. 0116/27.)

BROVIG. Captain of RANGER considers C.C.BROVIG should not be beached but is able to proceed A.(as received.), after leaving repair port in fine weather. Ship has already steamed 350 miles in a rough sea before reaching Stornoway. Recommendations. Request instructions.(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0945/27.)

NEPTUNUS. Request you will sail Tug SCHELDE to arrive Luce Bay, Mull of Galloway by 0730/1st. On arrival SCHELDE is to refloat the Netherlands Trawler NEPTUNUS aground to the East of Mull of Sinniness and if required tow her into Loch Ryan. R.A.F. Motor Boat will assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1052/27.)

PASS OF LENY. In tow of SEA GIANT escorted by HEBE reported in 055° 26' N, 001° 20' W, at 0915. (WESTMINSTER 1135/27.)

HEBE. My 0915. My position 1300 one mile South of Number 20 F Buoy. SEA GIANT in company. Making good maximum 3 knots. (HEBE 1310/27.)

/MONIMIA.....

MOST SECRET.

27. 2. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

MONIMIA. MONIMIA ashore Peterhead Bay unable to be refloated until weather moderates. Heavy seas driving her further ashore. Crew Safe.(C. in C. Rosyth 1145/27, N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1714/27.)

STRATHAIRD. Paravane and D.C. washed (overboard). Request instructions. (STRATHAIRD, 1232/27.)

LONDON. My 1110/26. Departure delayed 48 hours by defects. (C. in C. Nore 1300/27.)

FRANKLIN. Some damage caused by P.L.A. Tug SIRDAR. Repairs are being carried out forthwith and will probably be completed by 6/3. (F.O.I.C. London 1510/27.)

MAID OF KENT. M.L. MAID OF KENT attached to wiping station has been rammed and sunk at North Wall Tidal Basin p.m. today. (D.C.W.O. Portsmouth 1521/27.)

DAROGAH. My 2349/29/1. It is considered if attempted salvage of this Trawler is long delayed difficulty will be experienced due to accumulation of sand. DAROGAH is badly required for minesweeping and it is requested that priority may be given to her salvage before attempts are made on the vessel discussed at meeting with P.L.A. on 7/1. (C. in C. Nore 1635/27.)

WESTWOOD. VORTIGERN reports having been in collision with S.S. WESTWOOD 26/2. Request WESTWOOD may be surveyed. (Capt. D. Rosyth 1804/27.)

/BRIGAND.....

MOST SECRET.

27. 2. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.

BRIGAND.	Your 1210/27. Sailing of BRIGAND delayed owing to leaking oil tank and contaminated fuel. (A.C.O.S. 1812/27.)
TAKU.	Unable to dive owing to fractured after hydroplane gear external to Hull. Hove to at 2100 G.M.T. in estimated position 056° 36' N, 021° 07' W, wind gale force heavy seas, low visibility. Owing to Kitchin rudder effect ship is not under control. Estimate drifting 4 knots to southward. Request assistance. (TAKU 2045/27.)
BARCLIFF.	(Boom Defence Vessel). Following received from BARCLIFF at 1210/27, begins: Hove to 30 miles South of Portland. Whole Gale. Ship just holding her own, position getting serious. ends. Have sent LEONIAN to her assistance. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 2203/27.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Raider Situation.

North Atlantic.

My 2302/20.
1. THELAWNEY attacked at 1425/22 B.S.T. about 520' E. of St. Johns. Made RRRR but attacker may be armed merchant raider. At 1915/22 unknown ship reported being attacked by aircraft in same area.
2. By D/F at 2017/24 a raider or supply ship was within 200 miles of 27° N. 44° W.
3. Vague D/F indications at 0111/25 that unidentified unit was somewhere S. by W. from Freetown.

South Atlantic.

1. D/F on 20/2 and 22/2 indicate 1 unit probably a raider in area South of St. Helena. A supply ship is possibly also in this area.
2. A suspicious ship was sighted near Capetown on 16/2 and mines discovered in this area on 21/2. These may have been laid by unit now South of St. Helena, or possibly by raider which attacked whalers in Mid-January of which nothing since heard.

Indian Ocean.

SCHEER appears to have attacked CANADIAN CRUISER 480 miles E by S from Mombasa at 1706/21 and RANTAU PANJANG 280 miles to W.S.W. at 0615/22. She was located by GLASGOW 3 hours later, but touch was subsequently lost.
D/F fixes on 24/2 and 26/2 may have been of SCHEER or an armed raider 680 miles N.E. of Mauritius and 300 miles S.E. of Madagascar respectively.
Previous sinkings in Seychelles area quite possibly by armed merchant raider whose present whereabouts are not known.

Pacific Ocean.

No information.
(D.D.I.C. 1756/27 to C.in C's etc.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

S.L.S.64 Survivors — Request when AVOCETA may be expected Lisbon. F.O.C.N.A. urgently requires at Gibraltar survivors of S.L.S.64. Consignment of survivors expected Lisbon tomorrow and no suitable shipping available here for their transport. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1217/27 to Admty.).

TUNA — At 0600/28:- TUNA with H.G.54. (F.O.C.N.A. 1612/27).

Air Report. — Daily Summary Operations. Area covered 26° W. to 8° W. Flying curtailed by fog. (200 Group, 1700/27).

Pay of Free French. — (F.O.C.N.A. 1730/27, to Admty.).

JOAO BELO intercepted. — Your 2309/26. JOAO BELO (Portuguese, 6365 tons) intercepted 035° 15' N. 013° 36' W. bound for Lisbon. Person mentioned cabin and baggage searched negative result. One male steerage passenger. Italian passport, parentage Greek Dodecanese age 41 not apprehended. Submit if further search and apprehension of Italian passengers required Y zone Trawlers be informed. (MALVERNIAN, 1800/27, to F.O.C.N.A.).

VULCAN — Left Ponta Delgada 1945/26 for Freetown routed through 016° N. 029° W. speed 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 2124/27 to COMORIN)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

IDOMENEUS — Overdue shipping, cancel My 1140/26 IDOMENEUS arrived Capetown. (S.O.I., Capetown, 09158/27).

Suspicious vessels seen by HALCYON — N.O.S.O. Bahia 1655/24 and 1345/25 (re suspicious vessel seen by master of HALCYON) are passed to you. Ship cannot be identified here. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1148/27, to S.O.I. Kingston, J.).

Shipping, Bunkers. — Your 1238/26. All masters of independently routed ships given distances along their routes. All convoy ships informed of expected number of days steaming to their destination and told they must have four days margin bunker in addition. In case of S.L.64 estimated number of days steaming to West coast ports was 22, and according to figures given by masters every ship of this convoy left Freetown with 26 days bunker. Any shortage of coal in ships mentioned must have been due either to incorrect figures given by masters or to failure in checking quantities of coal delivered. In future actual distances in movements will be given in addition. (N.O.S.O. Freetown 1203/27 to Admty.).

Lourenco Marques. — Your 0723/19. (re use of ? Lourenco Marques as transhipping port for enemy trade). Investigation by N.O.S.O. Lourenco Marques shows no reason for suspicion. (S.O.I. Capetown, 14038/27, Capt. O.S., Singapore).

French Controlled Ships to be intercepted. — Reported French intend to requisition and use allied ships previously detained, in particular ex Danish ships HARALD and ULRIKHOLM (now on British Register) and Norwegian tanker JASPIS. If these ships are sighted unescorted they are to be sent or brought into a British port. If escorted they are to be reported only. (C.in C. E.A., 15577/27, to E.A. Stn.).

/ CORNWALL ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CORNWALL — It is at your discretion to comply with C.in C. E.I. 1114/27. (Re: possible movements of German pocket battleship) (D.O.D.(F) 1547/27, to C.in C. S.A.). Reply to C.in C. E.I. 1114/27 (C.in C. S.A. 1941N/27 to C.in C. E.I.) See Operations Volume.

Mediterranean.

LIVERPOOL — Your 2349/17. On completion of temporary repairs now in hand LIVERPOOL will be fit to cross Atlantic provided route chosen can be relied upon to ensure reasonably moderate weather. (C.in C. Med., 0019/27, to Admty.).

Turkey LL Sweep. — Your 1226/28/1 para. (m). Most effective form of magnetic minesweeping apparatus is the LL Sweep. Anticipated that Turks would have difficulty in finding suitable ships to carry that sweep. It is hoped to sweep Greek and Turkish ports with our own resources as the strategical situation permits. The maintenance of secrecy of LL Sweep gear is also a matter of importance. (Head of M. 1001/27 to N.A. Ankara).

/ Capture of Kasteloritzo, ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Capture of Kasteloritzo, DECOY, HEREWARD, LADYBIRD, ROSAURA

My 0002/26. Commando landed before dawn in ships boats from DECOY and HEREWARD. Opposition apparently slight. LADYBIRD entered harbour at daylight unopposed except for rifle fire which she silenced with ship guns and then landed party of Royal Marines in town. After heavy air raid in which LADYBIRD sustained slight damage she disembarked Royal Marines, who were no longer required, and withdrew to Cyprus. During night of 25/26/2 two enemy M.T.B's raided Island but withdrew before our force could make contact. Permanent garrison from Cyprus embarked ROSAURA but in view of enemy activity has been transferred to DECOY and HERO at Alexandria. These two ships, covered by BONAVENTURE, PERTH, HASTY and JAGUAR, will (?land) garrison and relieve Commando during the night of 27/28/2 S.E.N.O. Suda Bay pass to CREFORCE. (C.in C. Med., 1009/27 to Admty.).

Convoy A.N.F.16.

1009/27, (List of ships. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1103/27).

Tobruk, air raid.

1. 25/2. During evening enemy bombed Tobruk. Fire started on 1 tanker brought under control.
No material damage.
2. Greece.
Aircraft reconnoitred Valona 26/2 reporting 11 cargo vessels in harbour. Hurricanes machine-gunned 2 cargo ships escorted by gun boat 10 miles off Valona.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1156/27).

UTMOST

On completion of mission proceed through 180° Filfola Is. 5 miles to arrive Marsamuscetto 0700/4. Unless necessary you are not to break W/T silence.
(Cdr. S.1, 1339/27, to UTMOST).

URSULA

Leave area and proceed through 035° 40' 014° 07' to arrive off Marsamxett (Marsamuscetto) 0700/3. Do not break W/T silence unless necessary. (Cdr. S.1, 1337/27, to URSULA).

/ Air Raid on Malta 26/2. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.).

Air Raid on Malta 26/2.

Heavy raid 26/2 by (30 ?) J.U.87, 12 J.U. 88, 10 Dornier 215 and 10 H.E. 111, escorted by 20 to 30 mixed fighters. Attack chiefly on LUQA. Our bag by fighters 2 J.U. 87 confirmed, 7 others probable, by A/A 6 J.U. 87 confirmed, 4 others probable. Our losses 3 Hurricanes. 6 Wellingtons burnt out on ground 3 others badly damaged. One Glen Martin written off 3 others unserviceable for about a week. Much damage to aerodrome but casualties surprisingly few. Later on Red Cross plane accompanied by 20 fighters came and searched round Northern half of Island for an hour and one H.E. severely damaged by Hurricanes. From this it would appear enemy losses more severe than we estimated. Two German Airmen captured. Add to my report for Tuesday one D. 215 definite. (M.O.I.C. Malta, 1420/27, to C.in C. Med.).

Maddalena Reconnaissance.

Your 1139/23 (re reconnaissance of Maddalena harbour Cagliari aerodrome and harbour Algiero aerodrome). Owing to heavy blasts regret no reconnaissance now available.
(V.A. Malta, 1423/27 to S.O. Force H.).

FORMIDABLE

Not clear in Admiralty if FORMIDABLE has yet been passed through Suez Canal. If not, it is for consideration she should be towed through mined portion so as to reduce risk from Accoustic mines.
(V.C.N.S. 1601/27 to C.in C. Med.).

M.V. sunk by UPRIGHT. Malta Force Submarines.

Cdr. (S) 1 1555/27 not to Admiralty. The merchant vessel carrying petrol burst into flames fore and aft on being hit, sank without a trace or survivor. UPRIGHT states ship made no W/T signal. In these circumstances suggest no announcement be made of sinking and that Italians be left to guess whether loss was due to aircraft mines or submarine.

/ Recommend no undue ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

M.V. sunk by UPRIGHT. Malta Force Submarines. (Contd.).

Recommend no undue publicity be given to exploits of Malta force submarines. Lazaretto is just getting going as an efficient base and I do not want attention to be drawn to it as a suitable target for German dive-bombers. (V.A. Malta, 1645/27, to C.in C. Med.).

Malta Air Raid 26/2.

X 6807.
Ref. yesterday's dive bombing attack on Malta.
Anticipate Luqa aerodrome serviceable by a.m. 1/3. Civilian damage at Luqa and Guidia villages considerable.

FERMOY bombed.

27/2. 1410 - 1420. 1 JU 88 aimed 3 or 4 bombs at FERMOY off Grand Harbour. No hits. 4 Hurricanes up, no engagements. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1710/27).

Suez Canal Mines.

Detect mine in Suez Canal. Request information on following suggestion.
(i) Underwater television believed to be used in Panama Canal for inspection of lock gates and bottom of lock.
(ii) Infra red ray for use in detecting objects falling into canal. Idea is to use beam of infra red ray down length of canal with indicating device to show when and where any object crosses beam.
(iii) Will torpedo fire acoustic mine?
(C.in C. Med., 1949/27 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

MAURETANIA	Your 1048/24, no objection to proposed use of MAURETANIA, subject to C.in C. E.I. approval. (D. of S.T. 0123/27, to P.S.T.O. India).
HAWKINS, KINGSTON, W.S.5B.	27/2 0336Z arrival HAWKINS, 0740Z, departure KINGSTON for W.S.5B. (E.C.I.O. Aden, 0742Z/27, to Admty. etc.).
RAMB I intercepted sank.	Sighted Italian RAMB I flying Red Ensign at 0510Z/27. On order to stop at 0619 she hoisted Italian colours and opened fire from forecastle and poop guns. LEANDER fired five salvoes. RAMB I struck her flag at 0628 and abandoned ship. Set herself heavily on fire and sank at 0718Z in position 001° 00' N. 068° 30' E. 11 officers and 89 men prisoners. Italian casualties one seriously four slightly wounded. Intend transferring prisoners to capacity of Oiler PEARLEAF. (LEANDER, 0744Z/27 to C.in C. E.I.).
AQUITANIA EMPRESS OF JAPAN.	Your 0746/25. Firm sailing date 6/3 speed of advance. 19 knots. (S.S.T.O. Bombay, 1116Z/27, to C.in C. E.I.) My 2023/25. On completion of oiling sail Oiler PEARLEAF for Colombo. I hope she can somehow accommodate all your prisoners and armed guards for this short passage. (C.in C. E.I., 1500Z/27, to LEANDER). LEANDER's 0747/27. New Zealand Govt. would very much like to publish news of sinking of RAMB I by LEANDER and ask that publication in N.Z. may precede publication elsewhere. Request you signal as soon as news may be released. (N.Z.N.B. 2247/27, to Admty.).

/ Mines in M.V.'s as defence against raiders. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Mines in M.V's as defence against raiders.

Following proposal for defence of merchant shipping against enemy raiders is forwarded for consideration.
All ships to carry about 12 magnetic floating mines. On identifying a raider alter course to bring enemy right astern and start releasing mines. (Details).
(F.O.C.N.I.N., 09412/27, to Admty.).

N.S.S.B. HANKINS.

Arrival 09102/27 M/S Group 109, departure HANKINS for W.S.SB.
(R.O.I.C. Aden, 10152/27, to Admty. etc.).

Search for pocket battleship. Re CORNWALL

C.in C. E.I. 11142/27 See Operations Volume.

Conditions at Heron.

My 1202/26. Pier intact two cranes about two tons each working. Travelling crane one ton double Beauville track eight trucks. Good workhouses and roads. Sea conditions suitable for unloading at pier and on beach. Following available two diesel tugs sound B.P.A. no compressed air. Two twenty ton diesel barges in working order. Nine steel dumb lighters. One motor boat. All cranes destroyed. Fuller information awaited.
(C.in C. E.I. 1206/27).

Clearing "Cucumbers"

D.T.M. 1213/27 to C.in C. E.I. in reply to his 17242/26.

Re Two A.M.C's to sail from Australia early June.

Your 0539/26 Feb. Concur.
(C.in C. E.I. 15122/27 to A.C.N.B.).

Massawa.

Your 0702/26. Massawa is not to be planted with Cucumbers without further instructions. Report when your preparations enable you to do so and a decision will then be given.
(V.C.N.S. 1600/27 to C.in C. E.I.).

/ SHROPSHIRE .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

SHROPSHIRE — My 1108/26 (re sailing orders and speed (18 knots)) para. A (ii). SHROPSHIRE is to proceed at 25 knots.
(C.in C. E.I., 1904/27, to Force V.).

HILDER MOLLER. — My 1149/26. HILDA MOLLER to proceed Hong Kong to discharge cargo of salt.
(D.T.D. 2025/27 to C.in C. E.I.).

DORSETSHIRE — Remain with GLASGOW and Force Z, pending further orders from C.in C. E.I. to whom a separate signal is being sent.
(V.C.N.S. 2317/27 to DORSETSHIRE).

CANBERRA,
LEANDER,
DORSETSHIRE,
GLASGOW

My 2307/24.
(a) In view of A.C.N.S. 0737/26 which orders HOBART and SYDNEY to Fremantle, suggest CANBERRA and LEANDER should remain in the central Indian Ocean area for the present. From your 2028Z/25 it would appear that you can supply them with fuel.
(b) Considered desirable that DORSETSHIRE should remain with Force "Z" and GLASGOW if fuel permits until latitude of 10° N. is reached.
(V.C.N.S. 2331/27, to C.in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ARCHANGELOS — Cancel my 0337Z/26 ARCHANGELOS arrived. (N.C.S.O. Singapore, 0211Z/27).

Situation in Far East. — Appreciation of situation (C.in C. F.E. 0230/27) See Operations Volume (Lion copy only).

Search for Pocket Battleship. — N.E.I. Navy dispositions (C.in C. China 0251/27) See Operations Volume.

Thai naval forces. — (D) First Base Defence Force thought to consist of fourth S/M squadron, a cruiser, an aircraft Carrier and at least eight to ten auxiliaries or transports concentrated in Linschoten Island area possibly for exercises.
(C.I.S. Far East 0856Z/27).

America and West Indies.

CARADOC — Arrangements have been made CARADOC to visit Puerto Barrios, Guato Mala and Tola Honduras on 3/3 and 4/3 respectively, returning to Kingston Jamaica 7/3.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 0051/27).

PRINCE ROBERT escort. — Admty. 1737/21 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa has agreed that PRINCE ROBERT should be based on Suva for this escort duty commencing with AWATEA trip leaving Suva end of April. Request further details be arranged between N.S.H.Q. Ottawa and N.O. Wellington, keeping me informed.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 0052/27, to N.O. Wellington, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.).

/ S.S. SUFFOLK "R" report. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

S.S. SUFFOLK "R" report. British Ship SUFFOLK reports when in position 014° 42' S. 092° 40' W. at 0855 G.M.T./21 intercepted on 600 metres following: RR RR followed by suspicious vessel (ends). Estimated by strength of signal ship near above position. See my 1556/14 (Master of WASHINGTON EXPRESS reported encountering suspicious cargo vessel).
(S.O.I. Kingston, 1038/27, to Admty. etc.).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN BUXTON Concur in proposed arrangements. Dock will be available. BUXTON should bring docking plan and (?) bottom composition. It would be convenient if ROYAL SOVEREIGN carried out same practice before entering harbour. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1052/27 to F.C. 3 B.S. (Note:- Refers to F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1556/25).

B.H.X. 113 escort. Following is a repetition of my 0952/26 (Previously received undecypherable) My 1742/24. PRINCE DAVID will act as escort for B.H.X. 113 leaving Bermuda 3/3. Ends. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1108/27).

B.H.X.112. Departure B.H.X. 112 Ocean escort CALIFORNIA returning to Halifax through 42.10 N., 60.00 W.
(C&re. in Charge Bermuda 1203/17 to Admty. etc.).

Bermuda Contraband Examination. Your 1221/24. Your 1244/2 is receiving urgent consideration. Questions raised are however somewhat complicated.
(Hd. of M. 1545/27 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

LARPOOL Overdue. Ministry of Shipping 1700/12. Dr. LARPOOL has not arrived St. John's Newfoundland. Ship sent 'QQQQ' Message subsequently cancelled at 1100/22 giving position 43.14 N. 49.02 W. If this position correct ship is considerably overdue.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1430/27, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.2.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.).

LANPOOL — Ministry of Shipping (?1700) /1 (N/T in War Registry) not to C.in C. A. & W.I. Dr. LANPOOL has not arrived St. John's New Foundland ship sent 'QQQQ' F message subsequently cancelled at 1100/22 giving position 43.14 N. 49.02 W. If this position correct ship is considerably overdue. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1436/27).

U.S. Coastguard Cutters. — Navy Department informs me that when Lease Lend Bill goes through President will give instructions that ten coastguard cutters are to be turned over to us. (Armament) Navy Department request information whether vessels would be desired in present condition; if not, what are recommendations of re-armament. Vessels will have ASDICS and depth charges. Complement 12 officers and 150 men. (N.A. Washington, 1729/27, to Admty.).

Panama Canal, Armed Guards. — Your 2341/26. H.M.C. have now notified their acceptance of the new regulation concerning armed guards without any reservation. The letter should therefore be withdrawn, if possible, and in future H.M. Ships should submit to armed guards without demur. (Rd. of M. 1853/27 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

Australia and New Zealand.

WESTRALIA MANOORA — WESTRALIA MANOORA sailed Sydney 1515Z/26 escorting GABRIELLA bound for Auckland, KAIKANGA bound for Wellington, to 036° 20' S. 169° 00' E. (A.C.N.D. 04352/27, to Admty., etc.).

MONOWAI AWATEA — Departure Auckland MONOWAI escorting AWATEA. (S.O.I. Wellington, 12002/27).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ISCHIA — 5100 tons, struck a mine in Gulf of Manfredonia, 41.38 N., 15.59 E., vessel is still afloat (D.S. 541, 27/2).

CLIZIA, CAPO LENA — Left Bilbao 24/2. (D.S. 541).

GIUSEPPINA GHIRARDI — Left Varna in ballast 24/2 (D.S. 541).

VICTORIA — 13098 tons, reported (B.O.) arrived at Leros on 31/1 with petrol, food and war material. (D.S. 541).

CALIONO — 5,000 tons, reported (B.O.) arrived at Rhodes on 31/1 with unknown cargo. (D.S. 541).

SENIO — 1067 tons, Press reports blown up and sunk in a Yugoslav port, believed by time bomb. (D.S. 541).

VOLTA — 1191 tons, believed mined in 42.48 N., 10.42 E. a.m./24. (D.S. 541).

RAMB I. — 3667 tons. Sunk by LEANDER.
(C.in C. E.I., 07442/27)
See FOREIGN STATIONS, East Indies.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.2.1941.
Thursday.

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(C.in C. E.I., 07448/27)
See FOREIGN STATIONS, East Indies.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.2.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

MANSEPOOL, etc., (torpedoed 24/2). — Cancel all previous instructions. Proceed forthwith south through Minches. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0005/27 to SALVONIA, SHAMAN, NORTHERN SPRAY.)

BALTISTAN — British, 6803 tons, dispersed from Convoy O.B.290.
Following has been read. SSSS. 51.52 N. 19.55 W. BALTISTAN torpedoed. (Liverpool W/T, 0315/27).

Use of P/L. — C.in C. Home Fleet 1552/24 (Re submarine reports to be made in plain language). Concur in principle these reports to be made in the form given in D.M.S. Appendix B. Article 16, example GYM V 2 UD - SSSS 60 - 16N 1536W BRITISH PIONEER torpedoed 1937 IMI- (C.in C. W.A. 1427/27, to Admty.).

Convoy O.B.290 (attacked 26/2). — Description of attack. (ENCHANTRESS 2001/27, 2002/27).

Submarines Reported.

1118 — Possibly 52° N., 6.50 W., position indefinite. (D.S. 541).

1330 — 55-56° N., approx. 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 541).

1847 — 54° N., 17-18° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 541).

2127 — 54° N., 17.30 W. position indefinite. (D.S. 541).

2254 — 54° N., 17.30 W(?) position indefinite. (D.S. 541).

2050 — 58.50 N., 8.30 W. position indefinite. (D.S. 541).

2324) 2339) — 58° N., 20° W. position indefinite. (D.S. 541).

/ 1049 (false) ...

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

1049 (false) — Torpedo track sighted from GDYNIA (?GDYNIA) my position 055° 18' N. 012° 16' W. (ENCHANTRESS, 1049/27, to C.in C. W.A.). Cancel my 1049. Reported torpedo track referred to periscope proved to be piece wood. Am proceeding to assistance of ANCHISES ?bearing ?approximately. (ENCHANTRESS, 1129/27).

1235. — D/F at 1235 B.S.T. U-Boat in area 52° 30' N. to 53° 30' N. 20° W. to 22° W. (D.D.I.C. 1320/27).

LOSADA (S/M's friendly) — Following has been read.
Q Q Q Q 51.38 N. 5.34 W. LOSADA followed by two suspicious objects astern look like submarines.
(Portishead Radio, 1623/27).
SSSS LOSADA now being chased by submarines firing at them position 51.38 N., 5.34 W.
(Landsend Radio, 1634/27).
SSSS 51.38 N., 5.34 W. LOSADA chased by submarines, course 117, speed 9 knots.
(Devil's Point, 1636/27).
Cancel my QQQQ and SSSS of 1625 G.M.T.
(LOSADA, 1723/27).
LOSADA reports having fired on 2 S/Ms in position 51.38' N. 05.35' West at 1733. She has been informed that S/Ms are friendly.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1854/27, to LA MOQUEUSE).

1912. — D/F at 1912 B.S.T. U.Boat in area 30 miles radius from 48° 30' N. 9° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1947/27).

/ Estimated U/B dispositions. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Information very indefinite.

German.

1 60° N. - 61° 30' N. 11° W. - 14° W.
1 59° N. - 60° N. 11° W. - 13° W.
1 N.E. of Hoskmll.
1 40 miles of 59° N. 16° W.
4 or 5, 55° N. - 61° N. near 20°W.
1 60° N. - 61° N. 25° W. - 26° W.
1 or 2, 62° N. - 63° N. 20° W. - 21° W.
Possibly 1 55° 40' N. - 54° 20' N. 17°W. - 16° W.
Possibly 1 about 52° N. 6° 50' W. 1118/26.
Possibly 1 about 48° N. 7° 30' W.

Italian.

2 or 3 in N.W. Approaches.
(D.D.I.C. 1402/27).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.2.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

KOLMELNA attacked. S.S. KOLMELNA sailing independently reported at 0356 today being gunned by an unknown craft about 320 miles W.S.W. of Bloody Foreland.

British Air Activity.

Blenheims today attacked Quiberon and report 3 hits on the shore quarters of enemy submarine crews.

Normal patrols were flown today north of the Shetlands and in the North Sea where they were extended to the coast of Norway. A/S patrols were flown in the Minches and south of Ireland.

Enemy Air Activity.

A.A. threat in N.W. Approaches. The air threat in the N.W. Approaches necessitates a redistribution of A.A. vessels. As a first measure C.in C. Rosyth is to send to Western Approaches 6 Hairs (W or V class destroyers converted to A.A.) or sloops with good H.A. armament. Convoys on the East Coast will for the present be escorted by only one sloop.

/ Fighter Command ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

A.A. threat in N.W. Approaches. (Contd.)

Fighter Command will provide greater protection, though half the passage is done during dark hours when such protection cannot be provided. C.in C. Rosyth and C.in C. Nore warn the Admiralty that to run east coast convoys of 50 or more ships with only one escort vessel is to incur very grave risk. C.in C. Rosyth's remaining sloops have insufficient speed to deal with E.boats and lack A.A. guns to deal with aircraft. In view of the situation in the N.W. Approaches the resources of Coastal Command will be concentrated on the protection of shipping in the area to the maximum extent possible. Bomber Command will take over a proportion of the duties now performed by Coastal Command in the North Sea.

WESTMINSTER and Convoy F.S.22 were bombed this morning off Orfordness. No ships were hit.
The railway line to the dockyard at Dover was cut during air attack this afternoon.

S.S. ICELAND a straggler from Convoy H.G.53 is claimed by a German broadcast to have been sunk and the crew taken prisoners of war about 11/2. The ship had her steering gear damaged by air attack on 10/2 in 36° 33' N. 17° 58' W.
The Germans also claim that S.S. KOSMOS (Norwegian) sailing in the British service, was intercepted and brought to a French port by German naval forces last September.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

N.O. Humber requires at least two vessels capable of sweeping acoustic or magnetic mines, with good A.A. armament. His existing sweepers cannot deal with the mines which are being continuously laid near Humber Light Vessels.

S.S. CALPENDA was mined and sunk in Swansea Bay this morning.

Blyth was opened this morning. Port Talbot is closed to ships with I.C. engines.

South Atlantic.

S.S. CLAN CUILVY reported sighting a submarine at 1900 G.M.T. today in 7° 18' N. 14° 26' W., about 120 miles S.W. of Freetown.
C.in C. S.A. considers this doubtful.

Mediterranean.

Malta harbours mined.

About 10 enemy aircraft dropped mines at early dawn today, in both harbours, and 2 on Valetta. A.A. guns hit and blew up one mine. Considerable damage was caused.

/ Kastelorizo evacuated. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.).

Kastelorizo evacuated. Owing to continued heavy air attacks and the landing of reinforcements by the enemy our force was withdrawn from Kastelorizo last night. During the withdrawal JAGUAR fired torpedoes at a ship in the inner harbour, believed successfully, and engaged and hit an enemy destroyer which succeeded in escaping.

Mining of Suez Canal. M. A/S B. Es. 3. was damaged by a mine in the Suez Canal today.

ROVER ROVER is to join C.in C. China.

East Indies.

C.in C. E.I. has ordered shipping in the Mozambique Channel as a temporary measure into north and south bound lanes each 40 miles wide, the inner lane about 20 miles from the coast.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Western Patrol.

A.T. 1823/21. In exercising operational control of the Western Patrol, F.O.C.N.A. has full authority to alter patrols or operate the ships as he thinks fit, informing Admiralty and F.O.C.N.P. of the action taken. (A.C.N.S. T. 0014/28 to F.O.C.N.P.).

Six Wairs or Sloops for W.A. Command.

The air threat in the North Western Approaches requires a redistribution of anti-aircraft vessels.
2. It is therefore necessary, as a first and immediate measure, to transfer six Wairs or sloops with good high-angle armament to reinforce C.in C. Western Approaches.
3. It is accepted that convoys on the East coast shall for the present be escorted by one sloop only. It has further been accepted that Fighter Command will provide greater protection and means for implementing this are now being considered.
4. Request you will report in the course of today the vessels detailed and the expected date of transfer.
(V.C.N.S. 1218/28 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Your 1218/28. Intend to sail six Wairs as follows:
WOOLSTON 1/3
WOLSEY 3/3
VALOROUS VIVIEN VANITY 4/3
VICEROY 7/3
My remaining sloops have no suitable H.A. armament. I would have much preferred to sent them. Without speed to compete with E.boats or A.A. guns to deal with aircraft they are far less value to me that Wairs. While fully realising the urgent requirements of C.in C. W.A. I consider that to run FS and FN convoys with only one escort vessel is incurring very grave risk. One escort can afford scanty protection to a convoy and cannot keep it together. Further she can afford little aid to its navigation which is so important on the East Coast. I would suggest that the three ships mentioned in your 1731/10/2/41 relieve three of the Wairs

/I am now sending ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

I am now sending as soon as they are ready as these latter ships are thoroughly conversant with the East coast convoy route. (C.in C. Rosyth 1720/28).

Tug Situation at Scapa and Kirkwall.

The shortage of Tugs at Scapa and the fact that there is no tug stationed at Kirkwall is seriously impeding Salvage operations in this area. WILLIAM HASTIE would have been refloated yesterday but Tug ALLIGATOR sent from Scapa for this purpose had to go to the assistance of WAZIRISTAN which was dragging ashore. WAZIRISTAN was towed clear but WILLIAM HASTIE with no tug in attendance drove further up reef and flooded throughout. She is now lying on her side and will almost certainly become a total loss. It is suggested that an additional tug for Scapa and a tug permanently stationed at Kirkwall is the minimum requirement for carrying out work efficiently. (C.S.V.O. Lyness 1250/28 to A.C.O.S.).

TORBAY to replace TAKU at Halifax.

My 1459/15. Intend TORBAY should now join (S) 2 at Halifax in place of TAKU who will join (S) 3 after repairs. (F.O.S. 1653/28).

Air Protection in N.W. Approaches.

In view of situation in North Western Approaches decision has been made to concentrate resources of Coastal Command on the protection of shipping in this area to the maximum extent possible. Proportion of the duties now performed by Coastal Command in North Sea to be taken over by your command. Request you arrange immediate consultation with C.in C. Coastal Command with a view to discussing resources and methods of meeting requirements and report to Air Ministry decisions reached. Assistance may also involve diversion of part of 2 Group effort to take over operations against enemy submarine bases hitherto undertaken by 53 and 59 squadrons Coastal Command in order to release latter squadrons for further reinforcing North Sea patrols.

/ Separate confirmed ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

Air Protection in N.W. Approaches. (Contd.)

Separate confirmed instructions regarding such operations will be issued as soon as your report after consultation with C.in C. Coastal Command is received You should take it that these detachments may be required for period of at least two months. (Air Ministry to C.in C. Bomber Command. Recd. 1820/28).

M.G.B's in Nore Command. Proposed fitting with Asdics.

It is intended to employ M.G.B's allocated to the Nore Command as anti E-boat patrols for which they are urgently required. It is considered that they would be far more effective if fitted with asdics or some form of under water listening gear. Request information whether this is possible. (C.in C. Nore 2144/28 to R.A.C.F.).

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 2330/27 (D.C. 0002/28) At 1130/28 (D.C. 1206/28) At 2330/28 (D.C. 2234/28).

Movements.

DUNEDIN. Cancel my 1206/26 and 2330/27. DUNEDIN will not act as Escort to O.G.54. (C.in C. W.A. 0131/28 to LINCOLN).

PEGASUS. Your 1815/20. Sailed PEGASUS to rendezvous with O.B.291 000° Altacarry 8 miles at 1200/28. (F.O. Belfast 0430/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

REPULSE
ZULU
NAPIER
BOADICEA ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 26.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

REPULSE
ZULU
NAPIER
BOADICEA — On completion of night B.P.T. firing ZULU join NAPIER east of Swona at 2130 today and proceed in company to Rosyth. Speed is to be adjusted to arrive May Island 1000/1 thence speed to Rosyth is not to exceed nine knots.
2. NAPIER ZULU with BOADICEA now at Rosyth provide escort for REPULSE to Greenock.
3. When released NAPIER proceed to Glasgow for reapirs and alterations.
ZULU and BOADICEA are to return to Scapa.
(H.A.D. 0915/28).

LUDLOW
LEEDS
LEWES — A.M. 1731/10. Anticipate LUDLOW, LEEDS, and LEWES will be ready to sail about 11/3.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1105/28).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Lines tonight. 3 trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1536/28).

S/M's. — Positions at 0800, 1st March and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1748/28 and 1831/28).

H.32.
SALADIN. — You may meet O.10 on passage. Situation 2000/28. Submarine H.32 pass to SALADIN.
(S.S 2236/28 to H.32).

British Air Activity.

Operation POCKET — POCKET postponed for today.
(C.in C. Plymouth 0952/28 to H.Q.F.C.).
My 1930/22 and 1804/26. Request POCKET may be extended as follows:-
2/3 0900 - 1400
3/3 1100 - 1600
4/3 1100 - 1300
5/3 1100 - 1300.
(C.in C. Plymouth 2111/28 to H.Q.F.C.).

/ Patrols ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Patrols. The following patrols are being flown today
UNST SA 1A SA 2 SA 3
(C.in C. Rosyth 1105/3).

Operations
SLAVE
WARRANT
OUNCE
My 1729/26 and 1421/27 SLAVE postponed a further 24 hours.
(N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1243/28 to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth).
288. SLAVE, WARRANT and OUNCE postponed 24 hours owing to weather.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1306/28 to H.Q.P.C.).
My 1306. Delete SLAVE.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1450/28).
My 1243/28 cancelled. SLAVE sailing 1800/28.
(N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1452/28 to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth).
My 1452/28. SLAVE sailed less FARFIELD.
(N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1850/28 to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth).

Air Search. One SUNDERLAND leaving Mount Batten at 1630 on A/S search along your track.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1602/28 to CLEVELAND).

Bombing Restrictions. Total bombing restrictions in T.B.R.40 are arranged from daylight/3/3 to darkness/4/3.
(S.S. 1825/28).

MOST SECRET.

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

ANCHISES.
(Bombed 27/2.)

ANCHISES located in 055° 17' N., 012° 59' W., at 0030. Possibility of salving good if taken in tow soon. Am searching for boats to leeward. Part of crew still on board. (ENCHANTRESS 0050/28, F.O.I.C. Greenock 1930/28 to SUPERMAN.)

If in vicinity pass through position of ANCHISES (C. in C. W.A., 0133/28, to FREESIA.)
Request aircraft at daylight to provide air protection and assist in location of 6 lifeboats with 150 survivors last seen 6 miles W.S.W. (ENCHANTRESS 0202/28.)
ANCHISES.
Proceeding. Ship may not last till daylight in risen sea. Help for part of survivors urgently required. (ENCHANTRESS 0347/28.)

Your 0202. Keep a good look out for A/C which will be sent to assist in search if able to take off. (C. in C.W.A., 0513/28 to ENCHANTRESS.)
Remaining crew abandoning ship at dawn very heavy weather 0505/28. (ANCHISES 0515/28.)
Approx., position ANCHISES at 1250/28, 055° 16' N., 012° 47' W.(C. in C. W.A., 1531/28, to FREESIA, MAN OF WAR.)
Following from N.O.i/c Londonderry begins: Following received from KINGCUP via aircraft have picked up six loads. One boat still missing am searching till dusk then request permission to return. 1745 ends. (C. in C. W.A., 2058/28, to Adty.,).
Your 1746. Well done. Return to harbour with survivors. (C. in C. W.A., 2211/28, to KINGCUP.).

LEEDS CITY
(Bombed 26/2.)

Tow has parted. LEEDS CITY, proceeding under own power at about 3 knots. Am escorting. p.c. and s. 054° 04' N., 014° 48' W., 040° 3 knots. (WINCHELSEA 0919/28.)

/Adty 0919/28.....

MOST SECRET.

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

My 0919/28. LEEDS CITY reports engine unuseable with engine-room and boiler-room flooded. Bulkheads hold at present. I hope to take ship in tow again later this afternoon when weather moderates. Request tug may be sent to take over as soon as possible also relief surface escort. (WINCHELSEA 1330/28.)
My 1330/28. Tow has carried away a second time. LEEDS CITY now reports unable to keep steam. Intend to attempt to tow again at daylight if weather permitting, at present quite unsuitable. Request information whether tug and air protection are available. 54° 25' N., 12° 44' W. (WINCHELSEA 2140/28.)
MAN OF WAR in company with SUPERMAN proceed to assist LEEDS CITY reported 054° 18' N.,013° 09' W., at 1200/28, with WINCHELSEA standing by. WINCHELSEA inform MAN OF WAR position course and speed and remain in company until necessary to return for fuel.(C. in C. W.A. 2226/28.)

BLACKTOFT
(Bombed 27/2.)

S.S. BLACKTOFT damaged by bomb in engine room after aircraft attack near position "Z" about 1600/27. Now in tow of Tug KENIA and expected to arrive Harwich 1100 today. WIDGEON escorting. No report of casualties. (C. in C. Nore 1007/28.)
Tug KENIA towing S.S. BLACKTOFT arrived at 1236. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1244/28.)

Convoy
F.S.22.

Enemy bombing Convoy ARENA in 52° 3' N., 1° 47' E. (WESTMINSTER 1127/28.)
My 1127. 2 Bombs no hits.(WESTMINSTER 1130/28.)

AMSTELLAND.
(Bombed 26/2.)

My 1345/27, and my 1703/27. AMSTELLAND abandoned and sinking in 054° 10' or 00' N., 014° 38' W. Drifting eastwards. Crew 45 on board VANQUISHER. Consider unlikely she will last under present weather conditions until arrival of tug. Am searching to westward for BEURSPLEIN. (VANQUISHER 1610/28.).

/BEURSPLEIN.....

MOST SECRET.

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

BEURSPLEIN (Bombed 26/2.)

My 1610/28. Have been unable to locate BEURSPLEIN. Am returning to base with 157 survivors and body of late Captain of AMSTELLAND. (VANQUISHER 1955/28.)

CLEVELAND TYNEDALE.

You have been reported by enemy aircraft. (C. in C. Plymouth 1732/28, to CLEVELAND, TYNEDALE.)

Dover and Folkestone bombed.

At 1410 today single enemy aircraft dropped four bombs in Dover cutting railway line to dockyard and damaging house property. No casualties. At 1630 one bomber escorted by four fighters dropped four bombs between Folkestone Pier and Copt Point. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A. Dover 1841/28

Mining.

Blyth.

My 0911/27. Port of Blyth is now open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0902/28.)

Z.M.E.21.

My 1632/27. Weather unsuitable. Operation postponed till p.m. 1st. March. (PLOVER 1002/28.)

Port Talbot.

Ships fitted with I.C. engines are not to enter or leave Port Talbot until further orders. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1150/28.).

/Number.....

MOST SECRET.

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.
~~Enemy Air Activity~~ Contd.

Humber. F.O.I.C. Humber 1152/28. No ships to meet Humber's requirements can be spared from other commands. C. in C. Nore is requested to assist as far as is possible with sweeping forces from the Nore Command. (D.M.S. 1950/28.)

CABENDA (British 534 tons.) Mined in 51° 34' N., 3° 54.8' W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1209/28.)

Hartlepool. At 1215/28. One Acoustic Mine detonated by S.A. Trawler. Details. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1449/28.)

French Coast. A.C.N.S. (H) 1547/28, to C. in C. Plymouth. See Operations Volume.

Iceland. My 2120/22. 6th mine now rendered safe and three further British mines dealt with as follows. Further unconfirmed reports North Coast. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1725/28.)

Searches of War Channel. My 1159/27. Operations postponed 24 hours and will be completed on 2nd., March in advance of ship. (C. in C. Rosyth 1800/28, to REPULSE.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Suspicious Vessel. In 47° 02' N. 24° 10' W. MORGENEN following by suspicious vessel. (Land's End Radio 0947/28.)
Intercept at 1038 G.M.T., From Valentia Radio. From MORGENEN cancel my QQQQ. 1035/28. (Valentia 1039/28.)
QQQQ. MORGENEN. Suspicious vessel still near. (Valencia Radio 1101/28.)
MORGENEN stopped by suspicious vessel 1046/28, position at 0947 47° 02' N. 24° 10'W. (Valentia Radio 1150/28.)

/Knowledge.....

MOST SECRET.

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.
~~Enemy Air Activity~~ Contd.

Humber.

F.O.I.C. Humber 1152/28. No ships to meet Humber's requirements can be spared from other commands. C. in C. Nore is requested to assist as far as is possible with sweeping forces from the Nore Command. (D.M.S. 1950/28.)

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/Knowledge.....

MOST SECRET.

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Humber.
Two more
Sweepers
requested

Mines are continuously being laid near Humber Light vessels and there are strong indications that they have also been dropped in Q.Z.3.120, 132, 205, 206. My existing LL and SA vessels cannot deal with this and it is essential that at least two vessels capable of sweeping acoustic or magnetic mines with good A A armament should be allocated to Humber. (F.O.Humber 1152/28.)

Enemy Intelligence of British mines.

Knowledge
of British
Minefield
off
Stavanger.

My 2347/10 and QBX 262, it is reported that on 8th January a Swedish ship was routed by German Naval Authorities at Egersund to clear a British minefield stated to have been laid recently in area enclosed by a line joining 58° 48' N., 5° 18' E., to 58° 56' N., 5° 18' E., and by lines at 90° from these two points to the Norwegian Coast. Master was told that minefield had only just been laid. (D.D.I.C. 1358/28.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

General.

Code words for groups of merchant ships.

Permanent Code words are allotted to escorted groups of merchant vessels sailing as follows: (a) Dartmouth to Needles RANGE (b) Dartmouth to Falmouth SCENT (c) Falmouth to Dartmouth WATCH (d) Falmouth to Hartland Point WHEEL.
2. These groups sail so as to be in following positions half an hour after sunset: (a) and (b) 50 17 N. 03 30 W. (c) and (d) 49 54 N. 05 12 W.
3. Groups require cover from time of leaving port until dark and from dawn following morning until arrival or dark average speed of 7 knots.
4. Future requests for cover for these groups are to be made to C. in C. Plymouth in form "Request cover for WHEEL 17th February".
(C. in C. Plymouth 1110/28 to N.O.I/C Falmouth, H.Q.F.C., N.O.i/c Dartmouth, H.Q.C.C).

Use of own weapons against aircraft by merchant ships.

Operations by German aircraft against shipping at sea in the Western Approaches are increasing, and take place outside the present range of fighter protection from U.K.
(B) It is of the first importance that all Merchant Ships should make the most effective possible use of their own guns and weapons if attacked.
(C) Attacks usually take place at a low altitude and one Fockewulf bomber has already been shot down by machine gun fire. Essential that machine gun fire should be withheld until the aircraft is within effective range. (I.E. 1000 yards or less).
(D) It does not appear that the P.A.C. weapons where fitted, has yet been brought into frequent use, although this weapon may prove very effective if properly used.
(E) N.O.S.O's are requested to impress these remarks on all masters.
(F) F.Os i/c and N.Os i/c are requested to take action forthwith to ensure that the necessary technical instruction is given to all concerned. (C. in C. W.A. 1608/28).

/Anchor.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

General.
(contd)

Anchor lights too bright.

Recent aerial reconnaissance disclosed that, in some cases, anchor lights of merchant vessels were visible from a considerable altitude.
The attention of Masters is to be drawn to A.M.S.I. 243, paragraph (A) 5 and N.C.S.O's should take steps to ensure their compliance with these regulations. (D.T.D. 1937/28).

Machine guns and manning.

Ref. Adty. 1546/27 scale of equipment of Military Personnel in ocean going ships should be one machine gun per man.
The Coastal Shuttle Service is to continue to be equipped with only one Military gun per two men.
D.E.M.S. Officers should arrange with A.L.O's that as far as possible each of the two Military personnel in team should have the same type of gun. (D.T.D. 2104/28).

Coastal Convoys.

F.S. 23.

E.T.A. (WALLACE 0045/28) 25 ships (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0951/28) Absentees (0952/28).

F.N. 18.

Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 0815/28) Absentees (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0953/28) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1015/28) Tyne ships arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1604/28).

W.N. 92.

0905/28, escorts, 1 ship (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0925/28).

W.N. 91.

Ships for (N.C.S.O. Lyness, 1030/28) E.T.A. Dummet Head (PIROUETTE 1700/28) Ships and destinations (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1923/28).

W.N.U. 91.

1600/28. Unescorted, 17 ships. 6 kites. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1734/28).

/F.S. 22.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.S. 22. KENTWOOD returned (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1131/28).

F.N. 19. 0832/28, 36 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 1044/28). List of ships and destinations (N.C.S.O. Thames 1239/28, 1507/28) 7 ships and 1 H.M. Tug and 17 trawlers from Humber to join at 62 D Buoy (N.C.S.O. Humber 1740/28).

F.N. 19.
F.S. 24. Your 1833 owing to strong following wind and sea am considerably ahead of time and expect to arrive at 62 D for Dupp Buoy 0830. Ship will have great difficulty in steering if speed is reduced, present speed of convoy 6½ knots. (VIVIEN 1920/28 to C. in C. Nore).
VIVIEN's 1833 not to all addressees. LADY PHILOMENA is to be detached at 62 D Buoy to await ships joining F.N. from Humber. F.N. 19 should reduce speed if circumstances permit to allow Humber contingent to overtake during day. LADY PHILOMENA is to proceed to overtake F.S. 24 as soon as Humber ships join F.N. convoy. (C. in C. Nore 2225/28 to VIVIEN VANITY LADY PHILOMENA N.O.C. Humber). Ships (as N.C.S.O. Humber 1740/28) Joined (C. in C. Rosyth 2231/28).

E.N. 79.
W.N. 92. FOWEY to act as additional A/A escort E.N 79. On meeting transfer to W.N. 92. Code words (C. in C. Rosyth 0915/28).

O.B.C. 291. List of ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0930/28, 1015/28).

F.S.
F.N. Forecast of sailing (C. in C. Rosyth 1317/28) Amendment to 1832/23 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1707/28).

F.S. 21. Arrived except 4 (N.C.S.O. Thames 1321/28).

F.S. 25.
F.S. 26. Escorts - amendment to 1650/21 (C. in C. Rosyth 1321/28).

/F.S. 22.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.S. 22.	In Barrow Deep (N.C.S.O. Thames 1400/28) Arrived except (ships) (N.C.S.O. Thames 2004/28).
E.N. 78.	Position (A.C.O.S. 1425/28).
Plymouth sailings.	C. in C. Plymouth 1433/28.
F.S. 24.	Sailed 1400/28. 8 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 1451/28) List of ships and destinations. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1606/28) 3 ships join from Humber (C. in C. Rosyth 2233/28) Sailed with VICEROY and COTSWOLD (C. in C. Rosyth 2359/28).
F.S. 23.	Destinations (N.C.S.O. Humber 1505/28) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber2341/28)
W.N. 91. E.N. 78.	Positions and crossing tracks. (C. in C. W.A. 1534/28).
Portsmouth night movements.	C. in C. Portsmouth 1553/28.
F.N. 17.	Tyne ships arrived except 3 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1604/28).
Unescorted sailings.	N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1952/28.
YEWTREE.	Reported at anchor off Yarmouth (N.C.S.O. Thames 1931/28 to C. in C. Nore etc. further to his 1321/28 re non-arrival).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.

O.G. 54.
DUNEDIN.
S.S. PROME.

Cancel my 1206/26 and 2330/27. DUNEDIN will not act as escort to O.G. 54 S.S. PROME is to proceed to Freetown in accordance with original sailing orders given her at Milford Haven. (C. in C. W.A. 0131/28 to LINCOLN).

O.B. 291.

EMPIRE SWAN, E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0915/28).

O.B.C. 291.

0125/28, escort RAMSEY, 18 ships (5 with kites) (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0130/28).

O.B. 297.

My 1657/27. Sails Liverpool 13/3 (C. in C. W.A., 0959/28).

O.B.O. 291.

Sailed 0530/28, escort CALDWELL, 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 0955/28).

O.B.O. 292.

0730 /1. Escort ST. APOLLO. one ship (N.C.S.O. Oban 1615/28).

O.B.C. 293

0100/4, 18 ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1002/28 amended 1004/2/3).

H.X. 108.

Arrived Cape Clear (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1325/28).

O.G. 54.

Lost contact. Asking for p.c. and s. (DIANELLA to C. in C. W.A. 0945/28).

O.G. 55.

KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE to R.V. with for passage to Gib. (N.C.I.C. Liverpool 1705/28).

O.B. 292.

Cancel sailing tel. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1200/28) Ships and destinations (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1601/28).

/S.C. 22.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.
(contd).

S.C. 22. — WESTERN MAID, TROMPENBERG arrived (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1455/28) Clyde arrivals (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1835/28).

S.C. 24. — Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1523/28)

O.B.E. 292. — Sailed 1525/28, 11 ships one kite (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1602/28).

H.X. 113. — Destinations in reply to his 1201/27 (D.T.D. 1854/28 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda).

H.O. 55. — Destinations (D.T.D. 1929/28).

H.X. 109. — Your 1604 (Request for report of position of H.X. 109) Convoy lost in gale early 27/2. Present position unknown they are probably scattered. (BURNHAM 1701/28 to A.C.W.A).
Your 1701/28. What was position of convoy when last seen and time. What was position of MALCOLM when last seen. What is your position now. Attention is drawn to W A G O 0154. (C. in C. W.A. 1916/28 to BURNHAM).

O.B. 292. — Escort ARAB from Liverpool until main escort is met. AMBUSCADE Fr. Destroyer OURAGAN HOLLYHOCK DANEMAN KING SOL from Clyde. ST. APOLLO from Oban, S.O. AMBUSCADE. Sloop ABERDEEN. (D., Greenock 1755/28 to C. in C. W.A).

H.X. 111. — My 1126/27. H.X. 111 is now routed (as follows) and should therefore pass clear of all addressees. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1852/28 to various).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

MILITARY CONVOYS.

FORTH.
HESPERUS.
HURRICANE.
BATORY.

Sailed for Halifax in accordance with Adty. 1401/22/2 1635/22/2 and C. in C. W.A. 2234/23/2. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0008/28).

T.C. 9.

Following arrived Clyde. DUCHESS OF YORK ORONTES T.C. 9. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0800/28).

ABOSSO.
CITY OF PARIS.

Sailed 28/2. E.T.A. 13/3. Latter if not calling Freetown E.T.A. Capetown 21/3. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1450/28).
1450 sailed CITY OF PARIS and ABOSSO escorted by BRIGHTON and BROADWAY. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1630/28).

ARAWA.

Sailed in accordance with Admiralty 1727/22/2 and 1357/24 /2. E.T.A. Freetown 1600Z/13th Mar. (N.O.I. C. Greenock 2000/28).

STRATHMORE.
REPULSE.
FURIOUS.
ALCANTARA.

My 2144/15. Routes.
(A.C.N.S. H. 2247/28 and 2248/28).
Admiralty 2144/15 Para (3) Does this include A/S screen for ship referred to in para (2). (C. in C. H.F. 1901/28).
Your 1901/28. Yes. Eight destroyers are being provided by C. in C. W.A. assisted by C. in C. Portsmouth for this convoy and escort, when they sail from the U.K. (A.C.N.S.H. 2315/28);

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

MILITARY CONVOYS.

FORTH. HESPERUS. HURRICANE. BATORY.	Sailed for Halifax in accordance with Adty. 1401/22/2 1635/22/2 and C. in C. W.A. 2234/23/2. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0008/28).
T.C. 9.	Following arrived Clyde. DUCHESS OF YORK ORONTES T.C. 9. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0800/28).
ABOSSO. CITY OF PARIS.	Sailed 28/2. E.T.A. 13/3. Latter if not calling Freetown E.T.A. Capetown 21/3. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1450/28). 1450 sailed CITY OF PARIS and ABOSSO escorted by BRIGHTON and BROADWAY. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1630/28).
ARAWA.	Sailed in accordance with Admiralty 1727/22/2 and 1357/24 /2. E.T.A. Freetown 1600Z/13th March. (N.O.I. C. Greenock 2000/28).
STRATHMORE. REPULSE. FURIOUS. ALCANTARA.	My 2144/15. Routes. (A.C.N.S. H. 2247/28 and 2248/28). Admiralty 2144/15 Para (3) Does this include A/S screen for ship referred to in para (2). (C. in C. H.F. 1901/28). Your 1901/28. Yes. Eight destroyers are being provided by C. in C. W.A. assisted by C. in C. Portsmouth for this convoy and escort, when they sail from the U.K. (A.C.N.S.H. 2315/28);

MOST SECRET.

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

TAKU.

Proceed best speed to assist TAKU broken down in 056° 36' N, 021° 07' W., at 2100/27, and drifting to southward. Take her in tow and proceed to 056° 30' N., 014° W., when condition permits. Present area for total bombing restriction will remain in force until further orders. (C. in C. W.A. 0118/28, to ENCHANTRESS.)

TAKU is roughly equidistant between Iceland and a U.K. port.

2. Existing commitments in the vicinity of the U.K. will make it exceedingly difficult to provide adequate air and surface escort for this very slow tow.

3. Request therefore you will consider TAKU proceeding to Iceland in the first instance. (A.C.N.S.H. 1354/28 to F.O.S.)

Important to keep W/T silence. C. in C. W.A. and F.O. (S) will keep you fully informed of measures being taken to assist you. (F.O.S. 1459/28, to TAKU.).

TAKU was disabled in about 056° 36' N., 021° 07' W., yesterday evening with fractured hydroplane gear, externally to hull and is unable to move owing to KITCHEN rudder. ENCHANTRESS is proceeding to her assistance. (F.O.S. 1652/28, and 1932/28.)

Proceed forthwith as ordered in my 0118/28, to assist TAKU.(C. in C. W.A. 2247/28, to ENCHANTRESS.)

Your 1354/28, which was received at 2115/28 In considering this course of action earli today I rejected it since I considered the U-boat and air menace to be less hazardous than the difficulty in towing the S/M beam on to the prevailing wind towards Iceland.

/Furthermore..

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Friday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.

Furthermore throughout the passage to Iceland the S/M would be getting further and further from any additional towing facilities that might be required. I have been in communication with C. in C. W. A., who is considering both alternatives and I am happy to abide by his decision. (F.O.S. 2351/28, to Admty.)

MEMPHIS. S.O.S. MEMPHIS position 56° 24' N. 9° 50' W., requires assistance. (Malin Head 0406/28.) Needs immediate assistance filling with water. de GKU. (Malin Head T.O.R. 0525/28.)

Proceed position 056° 40' N., 010° 20' W., to assist MEMPHIS.(C. in C. W.A. 0538/28, to COREOPSIS.)

S.O.S. from MEMPHIS needs immediate assistance, slowly filling with water, position 56° 45' N., 10° 20' W., water increasing, engine room fires out, four hours heavy sea, torpedoed Norwegian crew on board, boat space not available. (Seaforth Radio 1020/28.)

Corrected position MEMPHIS 100 miles 290° Inistrahull. (Port Patrick Radio 1059/28.)

Correct position of MEMPHIS 100 miles 290° from Inistrahull Hudson aircraft is being sent to assist.(C. in C. W.A., 1237/28, to COREOPSIS.)

Things are serious. Engine-room full stern nearly under. (Portpatrick Radio 1840/28.)

/Conditions.....

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.

Conditions worse, one boat washed away, the other on high side. (MEMPHIS 2323/28.)

MEMPHIS now reports her position at 1500 was epprox. 059° 50' N., 008° 30', W., (C. in C. W.A., 1526/28, to COREOPSIS.)

From MEMPHIS. Can't last much longer. Please send help. Position 56° 08' N., 9° 28' W. (Port Patrick Radio 1557/28.)

MONJA MAERSK. (British Tanker,1909 Tons.). Blown ashore in heavy gale at Reykjavik. Total loss. Crew saved. (D.S.T.O. Iceland 1200/28.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. Possible sabotage. Following received begins. Addressed F.O.I.C. Glasgow from QUEEN ELIZABETH. Please pass following to Strachan Fairfield Works, Glasgow from RODNAM. H.P.Turbine Gland partly stripped dummy severely rubbed blading undamaged. Piece file between impulse wheel and dummy spindle eccentric eight mils. H.P. Turbine Gland and dummy rubbed blading undamaged. Examination proceeding. Ends. T.O.O. 1509/27. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1255/28. to D.N.I.)

RICHMOND HILL. (British, 7500 Tons.) S.O.S. Position bearing due South from Vik. Commodore broken down, require assistence. T.O.R. 1115. Ends. (Iceland 1340/28, to Wick.)

(?Essential) (?if nothing is sighted) proceed in company to assistance of MODAVIA broken down in 062° 01' N.,018° 30' W., at 1342/28. PETUNIA report situation. (C. in C. W.A. 1652/28, to RESTIVE, PETUNIA, PRUDENT.)

/Your 1626/28.....

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.

Your 1626/28. RICHMOND HILL broken down. MODAVIA and six ships, course 080 degrees, latitude 62° 36' longitude 18°
(DOUGLAS 1659/28.)

My 1652/28, for MODAVIA read RICHMOND HILL. (C. in C. W.A. 2157/28, to RESTIVE, etc.)

Tug situation in Greenock Area.

Tugs St. OLAVES and SEAMAN are ready for sea at Stornaway. SALVONIA and NORTHERN SPRAY are proceeding to Londonderry in accordance with your instructions. MASTADONTE is available at Greenock but is unreliable and short range only. No assistance has been sent to MEMPHIS. I have not yet received your instructions to RESTIVE and PRUDENT. SUPERMAN is proceeding to ANCHISES in accordance with your instructions. (P.O.I.C. Greenock 1847/28, to C. in C. W.A.)

DYNAMO. (British, 809 Tons). Stranded outside harbour North of N. Pier trying to enter 27th. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1940/28.) Refloated at 2200/28. (F.O.I.C.Yarmouth 2219/28.).

TOWARD. (Rescue ship) Unable to sail with O.B.C. 292 owing to damaged propellor. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2058/28.)

CLARKIA. Both life boats stove in, raft washed overboard, and raft support carrying degaussing gear feed severely buckled in north east gale 27th. Main coil unaffected. Proceeding towards Minches. My position 060 degrees 58' N. 009 degrees 42' W. (CLARKIA 2100/28.)

NORTHERN SUN. Commenced pumping stokehold. Hope to get leak under control. (Corrupt group) continuing to endeavour to make contact. (NORTHERN SUN 1815/28 to PETUNIA.)
Have sighted and am close to NORTHERN SUN in position 062° 22' N., 011° 14' W.
(PETUNIA 2250/28.)

/From PETUNIA...

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.

From PETUNIA to VIMIERA, VISENDA, am with NORTHERN SUN in 062°23'011°22' course 102 degrees 2 knots. She requires towing to Thorshavn. Will stand by until you arrive indicate time. (Scapa W/T 0001/1.)

NEPTUNUS. Your 1052/27. Netherlands Trawler NEPTUNUS is ashore in position one mile North East of Sandhead Luce Bay. (N.O.I.C. Stranraer 1545/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

LA MOQUEUSE. Arrived with defects. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1603/28.)

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Convoys.

French armed trawler L'AJACCIENNE passed Gibraltar westbound at 1000/27 escorting French M.V's OUEDIFLED. (? OUED TIFLET), OUED FES, and IPANEMA. French destroyer TEMPETE passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1400/27 escorting French M.V's OUERGHA, CAUDEBEC and CHAMPAGNE. (D.O.R. 1/3).

IMPERIALIST.

Departure for Y.1. (S.O.(I) Gib. 0900/28)

MACON.

Your 1621/25 arrived Ponta Delgada 18/2. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1050/28 to N.S.O. (I) Freetown).

Netherlands S/Ms.

(a) Netherlands submarines will shortly be operating on N.A. Station. They are painted as follows.
(b) British communication ratings and liaison officers are carried.
(c) Recognition procedure is identical with that of British Submarines. S.P's are also identical.
(? Informed) first submarines enter station about 5/3.
(e) Request authority addressed may warn ships about to enter N.A. Station accordingly (F.O.C.N.A. 1058/28 to N.A. Station).

KENYA.

Re Adty, 1914/22 KENYA sails p.m./28 and expects to pass through (position) 1200 G.M.T./3/3 steering 155° 18 knots. If necessary to ensure meeting KENYA COMORIN must break W/T silence.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1140/28 to COMORIN).

Departure F.O.C. 10 C.S. in KENYA.
(S.O. (I) Gibraltar 1600/28).

DUNCAN.
VELOX.

Pass through 036° 20'N. 008° 00'W.
IMPERIALIST sailed 0900/28 for Y one decimal point three MIRROR escorted by (GRMJ) (not traceable) is working on cable in position seven decimal point seven Cape Trafalgar 220°. (F.O.C.N.A. 1211/28 to DUNCAN, VELOX).

/JASPIS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

JASPIS. (B.2.) Tanker JASPIS (Norwegian) left Casablanca at ? 1522/25, destination stated to be Bordeaux, speed estimated 8 knots. Manned by crew of OCTDAIM. My tel. No. 2436. (Consul General, Tangier, T.H.I. 1243/28 to Admty).

Movements of REPULSE FURIOUS W.S.7 etc. Pass following A.Ts to S.O. Force H. 2144/15, 2258/16, 1323/23. 1103/27 Above A.Ts have been repeated to REPULSE. (D.D.O.D.(F) 1414/28 to F.O.C.N.A).

MIRROR. My 1211/28. MIRROR now in 035° 55'N. 005° 48'W. (P.O.C.N.A. 1505/28 to DUNCAN, VELOX).

VERBENA. Arrival VERBENA having lost contact with convoy 23/2. (S.O. (I)Gib. 1546/28).

Air Operations. Daily Summary. 1 surface recco. east. 1 surface recco. west. Area covered 4° W. to 8° W. Flying curtailed by fog. (200 Group 1700/28).

? S.L.S. 64. survivors. My 1217 My 1207 and My 1206/27 (1217/27) not to Admiralty. Portuguese representative of Marine allows "ARDEOLA" to transport survivors to Gibraltar. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1735/28).

ASAKA MARU. Request information whether ASAKA MARU took in oil fuel while in port and full particulars of passengers and cargo embarked or disembarked also mean draft on arrival and departure and any other information. (D.N.I. 2006/28 to Consul, Bilbao, N.A. Lisbon).

Unknown Unit. Following D/F bearings obtained by Adty of unknown unit at 1856 G.M.T./28. (F.O.C.N.A. 2358/28).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CORNWALL.	Simonstown departure 0700/21 CORNWALL for patrol and St. Helena in accordance with your 2017/26 and 1941/27. Speed of advance 23 knots. E.T.A. St. Helena. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 07152/28 to C. in C. S.A).
NOBLE NORA, TRANSVALIA, EGELAND, JOHN WILLIAMSON.	Admty 1355/22 and 1236/24. Arrangements being made for Union Government to requisition these vessels subject to satisfactory survey and transfer them to Admiralty. 0938B/28.
S.S. CANADIAN. CRUISER.	Overdue shipping CANADIAN CRUISER due Durban 26/2 not arrived. (S.O.(I). Capetown 0945/28).
CILICIA.	You will be required to sail after fuelling to overtake convoy S.L. 67 which commences sailing at 0630/1. (C. in C. S.A. 1021N/28 to CILICIA).
? Ship 0148.	Corrupt SSSS distress message intercepted by Ascension at 0148 G.M.T. latitude corrupt longitude 018° 20'. Request information whether this signal was intercepted elsewhere.(C. in C. S.A. 1142/28 to Admty).
HOLMELEA.	Your 1142/28. Following was read at 0141/28. SSSS de HOLMELEA 54° 15' N. 17° 25' W. HOLMELEA attacked by unknown craft machine-gunned. (D.D.I.C. 1805/28 to C. in C.S.A). See A Boat Campaign.
S.L. 67 escort.	Adty's 1727/16 and 1915/26 propose ARETHUSA relieves MALAYA as escort to S.L. 67 in (position) at 1200N/14. (C. in C. S.A. 1527N/28 to F.O.C.N.A).
FURIOUS.	My 1403/14. Code Word for (A) Operation in para 1 - SUMMER (B) Operation in para 5 - TENDER (C) Embarkation in U.K. - PAGEANT. Admty 1403/14 has been repeated to REPULSE. (D.O.D.(F) 1351/28 to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A. etc).

/PORT.....

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

PORT FREMANTLE. — Your 1832/20. Check route between positions "E" received as 11° 20' N. 20° 20' W. and "F" received as 48° 30' N. 28° 05' W. (D.T. D. 1357/28 to Consul. Montevideo).

NICOLAOU ZOGRAFIA. TAXIARCHIS. — Your 1921/25. Impossible to bring NICOLAOU SOGRAFIA up to slowest convoy speed and ship will have to sail independently. Master Chief Engineer and crew are willing to sail but remaining officers refuse. Understan refusal entirely concerning rate of pay. Master declines to prosecute. TAXIARCHIS sailing in S.L. 67. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1508/28).

CHATSAUROUX. — My 1237/26. French express concern at risk involved in independent sailing. Request your views re alternative. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1609/28).

CYCLAMEN. CUBA. — Arrival 1730/28 CYCLAMEN escorting CUBA. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1925N/28).

KOSMOS. — Norwegian oil refinery ship, 17801 tons, German broadcast states intercepted last September and taken to a French port. KOSMOS left Walvis Bay, S.W. Africa, on 12/9 for Curacao, D.W.I. (D.S. 543).

D.F. bearings. — Following bearings obtained at 1856/28 G.M.T.
Text of message FF TAL DGU HZA ZNA C. (D.D.I.C. 2043/28 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. A and W.I., F.O.C.N.A).

Following bearings obtained at 1617/28 G.M.T. Possible positions are within 150 miles of 10° S. 60° E. or approx 29° S. 78° E. Impossible to estimate which position, is to be preferred. (D.D.I.C. 2300/28 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I. C.O.I.S. Singapore, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

REGENT. — Your 2316/28 convoy not sighted. E.T.A. off Marsamxett 0368/1 4 figure weather report 9890. (REGENT 0001/28 to Cdr (S) 1).

Kastelorizo. — Re withdrawal (C. in C. Med. 0944/28) See Mediterranean Volume.

FORMIDABLE. — Your 1601/27. FORMIDABLE has not passed Canal and has been sent to Port Sudan to await opportunity. In the meantime she is at the disposal of C. in C. East Indies for operations against (? Massowa). (C. in C. Med., 0942/28 to Admty).

N.O.i/c Malta's 1645/27 para. 2. There has been full concurrence. (C. in C. Med., 1011/28 to Admty).

Enemy A/C Mining. — At early dawn about 10 planes shed parachute mines in both harbours and two on Valetta. One mine hit and blown up by anti-aircraft guns. Considerable damage but casualties few. Am putting hospital ship DORSETSHIRE in Marsaxlokk 36 invalids. (V.A. Malta 1120/28, to C. in C. Med).

Jugoslav shipping. — N.A. Belgrade 1148/28 see Mediterranean Volume.

Air operations. — 1. Egypt. 27/2. R.C. Tripoli.

Attack on Valona. — 2. Greece. 27/2. 9 Blenheims escorted by 9 Hurricanes attacked Valona aerodrome bombs bursting on aerodrome and on hangars and buildings. Hurricanes destroyed 7 CR.42 and further 2 CR.42 were destroyed in collision. 3 Blenheims and 1 Hurricane damaged no casualties.

Attack on supply ship. — 1 Blenheim on A/S patrol between Marsa Taclai and Massawa dropped 1000 lbs. of bombs near enemy supply vessel proceeding South position 15° 45' N. 39° 22' E. Blenheim damaged by A.A. fire from ship. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1234/28).

/Movements.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

(contd).

Mediterranean.

Movements Summary.	C. in C. Med 1306/28. See Lion copy only.
REGENT.	Your 0001/28 acknowledged. Mines of unknown type laid by aircraft 280° 6.25 cables and 290° 4.7 cables St Elmo light. Instructions for entering Marsamxett Harbour. (Cdr. (S) 1 1401/28 to REGENT).
Tripoli.	Estimate of German reinforcements. (C. in C. M.E. to W.O. 1420/28).
Sweep by NUBIAN HASTY. JAGUAR.	NUBIAN, HASTY, and JAGUAR are carrying out sweep (100) during dark hours tonight commencing near Kasteloriso towards Rhodes then back towards Kasteloriso thence direct to Alexandria. (Capt. (S) 1 1501/28 to RORQUAL).
Relief of aircraft flying crews.	5th S.L. 1548/28 to C. in C. Med.
ROVER to proceed to China.	On completion of present rest period and outer Suez Canal being open to traffic ROVER is to be sailed to join C. in C. China. Report date she will be ready at Alexandria. Crew should be adjusted as necessary before sailing. (C. in C. Med. 1552/28 to Capt. (S) 1).
Mines at Malta.	My 2208/19. (i) On 27th two mines exploded spontaneously off Sliema Front. Two mines exploded of St. Juliens Bay, possibly caused by Diesel engined Gozo boat which was blown up. (ii) Weather conditions similar to those referred to in para. 2 of my 2208/19. (V.A. Malta 1556/28).

/Suez.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Suez Canal.

Reply to C. in C. Med 1550/24 re locating mines (D.M.S. 1756/28 amended 2205/1).

Malta Mines

138 Q B B Malta. Marsamxett harbour is dangerous due to mines laid in following approx position.

Instructions for Ship entering.
(V.A.Malta 1625/28).

Air Operations.

Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 hours 28/2. All times G.M.T.
Glenn Martin photographic R.C., Maddelena. Cagliari, Elmas and Alghero at special request S.O. Force H.
At early dawn 10 unidentified enemy aircraft dropped parachute mines in and off Grand Harbour and Marsa Scirocco Harbour 2 of which exploded in Valletta causing considerable damage and casualties. A.A. claim 1 aircraft unconfirmed destroyed. One mine hit and exploded by A.A. before reaching ground.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Med 1735/28).

DORSETSHIRE
(Hospital ship)

Leaves Malta about 1800/28 for Eastern Medn. passing North of Medina Bank. (V.A. Malta 1821/28 to REGENT).

DORSETSHIRE.

Hospital ship. Sailed 1800 for Haifa.
(V.A. Malta 1916/28).

Your 1139/25. Air reconnaissance today. Maddalena. Alghero aerodrome. Cagliari.
(V.A. Malta 2213/28 to S.O.Force H).

W.S.6.
Ammunition.

Following is repetition of my 1646/19. (No trace of previous receipt) Admiralty 337. From C. in C. Med. Admiralty 1722/15. Request confirmation that quantity in W.S.6. contains appropriate proportion of high explosive. Semi-armour piercing only is mentioned 1646/19. (C. in C. Med, 2337/28)

MOST SECRET.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

LEANDER.

My 1500/27 and 2026/25. LEANDER on completing with fuel is to escort Oiler PEARLEAF towards Colombo until 1300Z/1. Amended rendezvous for LEANDER and CANBERRA will be ordered. (C. in C. E.I. 0436Z/28 to LEANDER).

Orders for DORSETSHIRE.

My 0920 and 1108/26 DORSETSHIRE is now to remain with GLASGOW and Force Z until 010° N. DORSETSHIRE is then to proceed to Port Victoria Seychelles for fuel, arriving a.m/5. (C. in C. E.I. 0510Z/28 to DORSETSHIRE).

Sinking of RAMB I.

My 0744Z/27. No damage to LEANDER. Last sentence should read. Begins. Intend transferring prisoners and guard to capacity of oiler PEARLEAF. Ends. (LEANDER 0915Z/27).
LEANDER's memo 44/27. (1) RAMB one was a Raider which left Massawa 20/2 with orders to proceed toward N.E.I. pending further instructions. (ii) Intention was to attack commerce while on passage. (iii) Raider opened fire under Naval ensign. (iv) Sunk by LEANDER's fire not by scuttling action. (v) Raider failed to communicate encounter with LEANDER to any one. (vi) Oiler PEARLEAF with all prisoners expects to arrive Colombo 0300Z/2. (vii) Intend to suppress all news of above from present. (C. in C. E.I. 1014Z/28) Please ascertain from survivors of RAMB I whether she was to co-operate with German raiders, and if so any further details obtainable. (D.D.I.C. 1553/28 to C. in C.E.I)

CANBERRA.
LEANDER.

Orders (C. in C. E.I. 1144Z/28) See Operations Volume.

B.N. 17.

Convoy B.N. 17 Port Sudan portion arrived 28/2 BRITISH TRADER, KINDIT, TONJER, SUBADAR. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1149Z/28 to Admty).

/Convoy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Convoy B.S.17.	Sailing telegram (i) B.S. 17 Port Sudan Portion (ii) 0415Z/28. (vi) FLAMINGO YARRA. (N.O.I/C Port Sudan 1152Z/28).
Air Attack on supply ship.	See Mediterranean H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1234/28.
Mogadiscio, Merchant Service captives.	Request British Merchant Service prisoners rescued at Mogadiscio be interrogated. Information on following points required. (D.D.I.C. 1245/28 to N.O.I.C. Mombasa).
RANCHI.	Cancel my 1348/24. (C. in C. E.I, 1527/28 to RANCHI).
Routeing of Shipping.	Adty. 1310/23. (i) I have ordered Shipping in Mozambique Channel (?area) between 019° S. and 034° S. into North and Southbound Lanes each forty miles wide, the inner land being about 20 miles from general trend of coast. (ii) I intend this to be only a temporary protective measure against present raider threat, my hope being that change will remain undiscovered for a short time and if the raider attacks as heretofore, he will draw a blank. As a permanent measure I consider additional concentration over such a long distance would be unsound until more ships and (?aircraft) are available to protect routes throughout. (iii) With reference to my 1522/7/1 para 2 I intend the Southern boundary line (line B) shall be to north of Seychelles and that all shipping to and from Mozambique Channel shall pass within about 300 miles of Mombasa. (C. in C. E.I. 2010Z/28).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Bearings ASAKA.

Bearings obtained by Simonstown D/F, Auckland, Waipapakauhi and Awarua D/F Stations are of Japanese Special Service Ship ASAKA proceeding Yokohama to Lisbon via Panama Canal. Bearings place unit in vicinity of Canary Islands 2248 G.M.T/27. (C.O.I.S. Singapore 0341Z/28).

Japanese Demand for Charts.

My 1649/19. San Francisco reports from U.S. Naval Intelligence Officer there has been recent heavy demand for navigation Charts of Southern, Central and Western Pacific and Islands by Masters of Japanese Merchant vessels in U.S. ports. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1255/28 to Capt O.S. Singapore).

America & West Indies.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Halifax arrival from T.C.9. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1442/28 to Admty).

WOLFE.

Halifax departure WOLFE Ocean escort S.C.24. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1505/28).

NITIEI MARU.

My 2001/27, another tanker NITIEI MARU sailed Los Angeles 22/2 cargo aviation base petrol in dirty tanks previously used for diesel known. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1519/28 to Capt O.S. Singapore).

PRINCE ROBERT.

C. in C. A.W.I 0952/27. PRINCE ROBERT urgently requires 30 days refit after arrival in Canadian waters with AWATEA mid March. Anticipate she cannot arrive Suva earlier than 30/4. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1559/28 to N.Z.N.B).

S.C. 24.

C.O.A.C. Halifax 1329/24 and 1044/25. Deletions and Additions. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1602/28).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Suspected Raiders.

Following signals received from S.O.(I) Kingston, reliability C.O. and B.O. respectively.

(1) Master of WASHINGTON EXPRESS on arrival Balboa reports at 0100/8 in 010° N. 087° W. cargo ship estimated 5000 tons, two masted, one funnel, believed flush deck forward, passed on opposite course. Master suspicious owing to alteration first toward then away. Stranger fired three signal lights white turning red in flight, also flashed morse continuously ending signal N.C. once. No. W/T heard T.O.O. 1556/14.

(2) British ship SUFFOLK reports when in 014° 42' S. 092° 40' W. at 0855 G.M.T./21 intercepted on 600 metres following:- Begins RRRR followed by suspicious vessel ends. Estimated by strength of signal ship, near above position. Ends. T.O.O. 1038/27. Reference Para (2) could any British or Allied Ship have been near the position. (D.D.I.C. 1308/28 to A.C.N.B).

F.O.C. Australian Squadron.

Naval Board Melbourne's 07372/26. F.O.C. Australian Squadron will hoist his flag in HOBART on arrival Fremantle. (A.C.N.B. 23552/28).

MOST SECRET.

28. 2. 1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LEESEE. German ship LEESEE has sailed. Particulars of departure not known. (Consul. Vigo, 2000/28, to Admty.)

Collier. 6000 tons belonging to Stinnes Line, reported mined in first week of February in Lower Elbe. (Air Staff Opnl., Summary 98.)

MAJA. Danish (2203 tons) reported mined in first week of February in Lower Elbe. (Air Staff Opnl., Summary 98.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MONBALDO. Para reports MONBALDO moved anchorage to seaward approx., position 1° 19 min-s., Sth, 48° 30' W. (N.S.O.(I) Monte Video, 2229Z/28.)

RAMB. I. See East Indies.

MOST SECRET.

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.	
HOLMELEA.	British 4223 tons. Following has been read. SSSS de GCK. Position 54.24 N., 17.25 HOLMELEA gunned (by unknown attacker) Valentia Radio, 0124/28, 0129/28.) SSSS de GLV 54. 24 N., 17, 25 W., HOLMELEA attacked by unknown craft. Send immediate assistance. (Landsend Radio, 0136/28, T.O.R. 0242.) SSSS de HOLMELEA. 54.15 N., 17.45 W., HOLMELEA attacked by unknown craft, machine-gunned. (Burnham Radio, 0141/28.) Proceed to assistance of HOLMELEA being gunned by U boat in 054° 24' N., 017° 25'W.,at 0224. (C. in C. W.A., 0245/28, to WHITEHALL.) Unable to find HOLMELEA proceeding Londonderry to refuel 54° 30' 16° 20' (weather). (WHITEHALL, 1800/28, to C. in C. W.A.)
KASONGO DIALA. (torpedoed 26/2.)	Arrived CAMPANULA with 38 survivors from KASONGO escorting DIALA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0709/28, to C. in C. W.A.)
CLAN OGILVY, S/m. sighted.	SSSS de CLAN OGILVY, 7 R 18 N 14 R 26 W., Submarine sighted 1900 G.M.T. (Freetown W/T T.O.R. 19092/28.)
MANISTEE (torpedoed 23/2.)	Your 2205/27 received 1743/28. (requesting confirmation H.M.S. MANISTEE should be presumed lost.). No further information of MANISTEE or of her ships company has yet been reported. (F.O.C.N.P. 2220/28, to Admty.)
S/m's reported 1307.	Following bearings of German U/Boat obtained at 1807/28. (D.D.I.C.1911/28.)
1337.	About 55.50 N., 10° W., very indefinite. (D.S. 543.).

/1832 Following.....

MOST SECRET.

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

1832. Following bearings of German U/Boat obtained on at 1832/28. (D.D.I.C. 1919/28.)

1909. G.M.T. Ref. Admty., message AP. Position 7° 18' N., 14° 26' W., at 1909/28 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2133/28.)

Estimated U/B. dispositions.

German 3 N.W. of Hebrides may be 30 miles of (a) 59° N.,8° W., (b) 59° 30' N., 11° 38' W., (c) 61° N., 13° W.

5 or 6 between 52° N., and 61° N.,near 20° W., may be respectively about 52° N., 53° N., 55° 30' N., 58° N., 59° 30' N., 61° N. Possibly one near 60° N., 25° W. 1 40 miles of 58° 30' N., 16° 30' W., 1 40 miles of 56° N., 17° 30' W. 1 30 miles of 54° 30' N., 17° 30' W. 1 30 miles of 55° 50' N. 10° W.
1 St. Georges Channel.
2 patrolling 100 - 150 miles West of Ushant.

Italian. 3 in N.W. Approaches. (D.D.I.C. 1448/28.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U-boat campaign

MALCOLM, escorting Convoy H.X.109 reports that CADILLAC (tanker, 12062 tons), was torpedoed at 2301 in the N.W. Approaches about 210 miles N.W. of the Butt of Lewis. S.S. CANADIAN STAR reported this morning sighting a submarine on the surface in 54° 20' N. 14° 50' W. S.S. CITY OF CALCUTTA reported early this afternoon a submarine on the surface in 58° 22' N. 33° 21' W.

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command aircraft bombed Wilhelmshaven, TIRPITZ, Emden and Boulogne last night. An aircraft patrolled west of Brest from 2100/28 to 0030/1 to attack the HIPPER cruiser if she sailed. The cruiser was again sighted in dry dock at Brest this morning.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy W.N.91.

Convoy W.N.91 was attacked this evening north of Kinnairds Head, after being shadowed during the afternoon. S.S. FORTHBANK was hit and set on fire, and S.S. PENNINGTON COURT was damaged above water but proceeded with the convoy.

Convoy S.C.22.

Convoy S.C.22 was attacked this afternoon 30 miles North of St. Davids Head and EMPIRE SIMBA and Dutch tanker ROTULA were set on fire and abandoned.

/ Convoy E.N. 79. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.3.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy E.N.79. — Convoy E.N.79 was bombed this evening off Kinnairds Head after being shadowed earlier, and tanker ATHELTEMPLAR was hit and set on fire.

Trawlers ST. AGNES No.1. HUGH WALPOLE — Trawler ST. AGNES No.1 was attacked off Kinnairds Head this afternoon and 2 men were killed, though the trawler suffered only slight damage.
A/S Trawler HUGH WALPOLE was hit off Aberdeen.

The Admiralty have ordered the A.A. armament in all merchant ships approaching or leaving the U.K. to be fully manned from dawn to dusk whilst ships are east of 20° W.

South Atlantic.

CORNWALL this morning intercepted the French S.S. VILLE DE MAJUNGA about 450 miles West of Capetown and is sending her in to Simonstown under armed guard.

DELHI — Urging the complete retubing of all boilers, C.O. cruiser DELHI points out that in May, 1940, all boilers were sentenced to one year's life and final, but the ship has since steamed 55,446 miles, equivalent to about four year's normal peace time steaming, and over 100 tubes have perforated or split.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Sweep near Kastelorizo. NUBIAN, HASTY and JAGUAR carried out a sweep last night between Kastelorizo and Rhodes.

Air raid on Malta. A number of bombs were dropped today on the N.E. and south coast of Malta. Very little damage was done.

Mining of Malta. H.M. Drifter PLOUGH BOY was damaged by a mine at the entrance to the Grand Harbour today and had to be beached.

Operations by UPRIGHT C.in C. Med. reports that on 23/2 UPRIGHT torpedoed an unescorted ship in 34° 23' N. 11° 49' E. At 0340/25 UPRIGHT obtained a hit with a torpedo on a warship, considered to have been a cruiser of the ARMANDO DIAZ class or possibly a NAVIGATORI class destroyer.

Valona bombed. Blenheims, escorted by Hurricanes, attacked Valona today.

East Indies.

Massawa bombed by F.A.A. Blenheims bombed the S/M base at Massawa today.
Five Albacores from FORMIDABLE attacked the northern harbour at Massawa shortly after dusk today. Bombs were dropped on a small floating dock believed to contain a submarine.

S/M sunk. A Blenheim on patrol bombed and sank a submarine near Dahlak Island today.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

PRINCE OF WALES.

On completion PRINCE OF WALES will come under the orders of C.in C. H.F. and will proceed to Scapa for trials and working up as ordered by him.
(D.O.D.(H) 1214/1).

East Coast Convoys, protection.

Admty. 1218/28 and C.in C. Rosyth 1720/28. Concur with C.in C. Rosyth. While everything possible will be done from Nore to reinforce escort during most vulnerable part of the passage South of Flamborough recent reductions and casualties among Nore destroyers will not admit of additional escorts for every convoy. Considered that a very grave risk is incurred by allowing convoys of 50 or more ships to proceed through the dangerous area between Outer Dowsing and Southend with only one escort. Observed that half of this passage is done in dark hours when Fighter Command are unable to provide protection against bombing or E/Boats. It can only be expected that the scale of enemy attack on the East Coast will steadily increase with increased production and improving weather.
Any reduction in the size of convoys will react unfavourably on the turn round of shipping.
(C.in C. Nore, 1220/1 to Admty).

Wairs or Sloops, for W.A. Command.

Your 1720/28. The three ships mentioned in A.M. 1731/10/2 are not suitable for employment in the Western Approaches on account of their lack of asdics, short endurance, and poor sea-keeping qualities.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1334/1).

M.G.B's in Nore Command.

Your 2144/28/2. Suggest M.L's work in conjunction with M.G.B. To fit M.G.B's with asdic or some form of underwater listening gear is a very lengthy and unsatisfactory process, further it entails very considerable reduction in speed.
(R.A.C.F. 1549/1 to C.in C. Nore).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

Redistribution of Air Forces for protection of East Coast trade.

V.C.N.S. 1929/1. See Operations Volume.

Defence of United Kingdom.

Faroes A/A Defences.

Naval Officer in Charge Faroes reports

(1) Infantry not repetition not available to man A/A guns,

(2) A/A guns can be manned temporarily by Coast Defence Artillery and weakening of Coast Defence Batteries must be accepted.

(3) I consider the early despatch of troops light A/A Royal Artillery to operate guns to be urgent.
(A.C.O.S. 1053/1).

DELUGE.

At 1130/1. (D.C.1152/1).

Scapa. A/A Defences.

Your 1131/14/12. Request very early provision of U.P. Ammunition.
(A.C.O.S. 1229/1st).

Scapa. Indicator Loop broken.

No.6. Indicator Loop is out of action. Request repairs to this loop may be undertaken during forthcoming visit of cable ship.
(A.C.O.S. 1235/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingsom. (Contd.)

Strength of M/L Flotillas.

Request you will signal probable effective strength on 1st April of each M.L. Flotilla based in U.K.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1335/1 to R.A.C.F.)

Your 1335/1. Strengths as follows:
(R.A.C.F. 1832/1 to Admty).

Movements.

Scapa Departure.
SOMALI, BEDOUIN, ESKIMO, TARTAR, LEGION, QUEEN EMMA, and PRINCESS BEATRIX.
(A.C.O.S. 0005/1.

TYNE.

Intend to sail TYNE escorted by ARROW and BOREAS for Scapa at 1400 today.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1059/1).

DUNEDIN.

Intend to sail DUNEDIN for Devonport at 0400/2 in accordance with Admty's. 1610/28.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1103/1).

ERIDGE.

Leave Rosyth at 1800 today and proceed to Scapa. Speed is not to exceed 9 knots until after passing May Island.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1105/1 to ERIDGE).

TALISMAN
PORPOISE.

(a) Intend to sail TALISMAN and PORPOISE escorted by CUTTY SARK at 1630/3 to 057° N., 012° W. E.T.A. 2000/4. Thence CUTTY SARK return to Clyde, TALISMAN and PORPOISE through position as routed by C.in C. W.A. 1828/27/2.
(b) Submarine enter N.A. and W.I.Station at 1200/9.
(S.3. 1147/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingsom. (Contd.)

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(b) Submarine enter N.A. and W.I.Statio at 1200/9.
(S.3. 1147/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

ALCANTARA.	Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1324/1).
Northern Patrol.	Trawler Line tonight. 2 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1536/1).
LONDON.	Will sail for Scapa from the Nore on 6/3 and will pass Kinnaird Head about 1200/7, escorted by 2 destroyers of the Nore Command. (ii) 2 Destroyers are to be sailed to relieve the Nore Command destroyers off Kinnaird Head. (C.in C. H.F. 1801/1 to R.A.D. H.F.)
DIDO.	Admty. 0946/27. Part company with Convoy in North Channel and proceed to Clyde. After re-fuelling return to Scapa. (C.in C. H.F. 1757/1 to DIDO).
Submarines.	Positions at 0800/2 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1806/1).
REPULSE.	Unbasining REPULSE delayed on account of weather. Anticipated time of departure from Rosyth 1000/3 arriving Clyde about 2000/4. Anticipated time required for fuelling and embarking and disembarking ratings in Clyde 4 hours. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1806/1).
KELLY KELVIN.	Sailed 1912. (C.in C. Plymouth, 2030/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

CHITRAL
AUSONIA.

Severe gale. CHITRAL and AUSONIA still waiting to enter harbour.
Gale moderating slowly.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland, 2210/28).

Operations.

Operation N.C.

Operation N.C. will be carried out zero time 2345.
(V.A.Dover, 1401/1).

Asdic Sweep off Needles.

Cross report Needles loop at 1400. Carry out Asdic sweep to outer end of Needles searched channel ahead of Tanker.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 1720/1).

M/B Patrols.

M.B. Patrols area 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 sheltering in harbour owing to weather conditions.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1900/1).

Operation OBSTACLE.

C.in C. Plymouth's 1748/27 and 1214/1.
OBSTACLE postponed 24 hours on account of weather.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2010/1).

British Air Activity.

Air Escort for RESOLUTION.

Pass to RESOLUTION. Sunderland Flying Boat will escort you from 1330 today.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 0828/1 to JACKAL).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Air Escort for RESOLUTION. (Contd.)	Pass to RESOLUTION. Cancel my 0828/1. One Hudson will escort you from 1630 till dark today. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1228/1 to JACKAL). Pass to RESOLUTION. My 0828/1. One Hudson will relieve Sunderland at 1630/1 (C.in C. Plymouth, 1314/1 to JACKAL). Cancel my 1228/1. Pass to RESOLUTION. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1420/1 to JACKAL). In view of air escort having failed to locate you today, one Hudson will search for you at dawn to assist Blenheims to locate you. (C.in C. Plymouth, 2246/1 to RESOLUTION)
Air Operations.	Cancel SHARP. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0921/1 to H.Q.F.C.) WARRANT postponed until 1630/2. OUNCE postponed until 0730/3. (C.in C. Plymouth, 2046/1 to H.Q.F.C.)
Patrols.	Air Patrols today. UNST, STAB, FAIR, S.A.3. from 1100. First three in operation now. (C.in C. Rosyth, 0944/1). My 0944/1. Add Patrol BERT now in operation. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1150/1). My 0944/1. Add patrol STAND now in operation. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1622/1).
A/C to Stockholm.	L.C. 14 G-AGAV leaving Leuchars 0100 G.M.T.2/3 for Stockholm. E.T.A. Stockhol 0530. G.M.T.2/3 Route - Leuchars to 57° 30'N., 8° E.thence to Smogen and Stockholm. (Air Min. Civil Control, Perth, 1555/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

LEEDS CITY.

Escorts. Air escort should reach you about 1030.
(C.in C. W.A. 0257/1 to WINCHELSEA).

LEEDS CITY.
(Bombed 26/2.)

C.in C. W.A. 2226/28. LEEDS CITY in 054° 32'N., 012° 37' W. at 0001/1, drifting slightly E.N.E.
(WINCHELSEA 0040/1 to MAN OF WAR).
Conditions still unsuitable for towing by WINCHELSEA 0800. Position of LEEDS CITY 054° 16'N., 012° 36'W. drifting in direction 070° at about 1 knot.
Engine room flooded and abandoned and no steam available but bulkhead holding.
Am standing by. 140 tons of oil fuel remaining.
(WINCHELSEA, 0928/1).
Tug SUPERMAN is returning for shelter.
MAN OF WAR R/V with WINCHELSEA and stand by LEEDS CITY when WINCHELSEA has returned for fuel.
(C.in C. W.A. 1351/1 to WINCHELSEA).

ANCHISES.
(Bombed 27/2).

SUPERMAN reports abandoned search for ANCHISES owing to bad weather. Returning for shelter. No wireless communication with Vessel since 0800/28.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0900/1).
Your 2100/18. Land survivors, at Clyde.
(C.in C. W.A. 1356/1 to KINGCUP).
Arrived KINGCUP with 156 survivors from ANCHISES.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1945/1).

Brest.

A number of German Naval A/C are active in the Brest area. (D.D.I.C. 1219/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy W.N.91. FORTHBANK, (British 5057 tons) hit.	One aircraft shadowing convoy RUSTY in 58° 27'N., 2° 40'W. (CURACOA 1315/1). Odd numbered W.N.Convoy, required fighter assistance 57° 56'N., 2° 3'W. course 145 speed 6 knots. 1930/1. Enemy Aircraft bombing odd numbered W.N.Convoy. (HASTINGS 1950/1). My 1950 FORTHBANK, hit. On fire. HASTINGS, 2000/1). My 2044/1. FORTHBANK in W.N.91 also on fire in 057° 40'N., 001° 45'W. Tug ABEILLE IV from Peterhead ordered to assist. M/Ss from 5th M/S Flotilla are to assist both ships. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2102/1 to S.O.5th M/S Flotilla). Assist ship on fire in position 057° 40' North, 001° 45'W. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2116/1 to WOOLSTON). My 2000. FORTHBANk position 057° 50'N., 001° 55'W. still on fire. No immediate danger. GAVOTTE standing by. Am embarking seriously injured from FORTH-BANK. (HASTINGS, 2145/1). FORTHBANK engines disabled. Fire under control. GAVOTTE alongside. Am detaching. (WOOLSTON 2306/1).
EMPIRE SIMBA.	(British 6086 tons) bombed in 52° 49'N., 5° 12'W. Making water, engine room out of action. (EMPIRE SIMBA 1320/1)(Liverpool W/T). 1320/1). Sailed rescue tug GOLIATH to assistance of tanker EMPIRE SIMBA reported by LEEDS UNITED 085° Tuskar 20 miles. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1425/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

EMPIRE SIMBA. (Contd.)	Corrected position now 52.21'North, 5.23' W. 1315/1 G.M.T. (Burnham on Sea Radio. Recd. 1433/1). LEEDS UNITED has been ordered to stand by EMPIRE SIMBA. She reports salvage possible and requests another tug. SEINE is at Swansea. No other tug is available at Milford Haven. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1554/1). EMPIRE SIMBA engine room and stokehold half full of water making water rapidly immediate assistance required. I am preparing to abandon if need be. Master (BURNHAM RADIO 1449/1). My 1425/1. Tug GOLIATH has returned owing to stress of weather and will be sent out again when weather moderates. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1731/1). Following from LEEDS UNITED begins:- "Have crew of Tanker abourd. Now embarking crew of EMPIRE SIMBA. Both ships may be salved. Cannot manage to tow in this weather. 1659/1. Ends". (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1835/1).
Convoy E.N.79. ATHELTEMPLAR (British Tanker 8949 tons). Bombed.	One Aeroplane shadowing convoy USAGE in 56° 36'N., 2° 7'W. (FOWEY 1415/1). Fighters have been sent to assistance of USAGE and LANCET. (Rosyth W/T 1440/1). Enemy bombing Convoy USAGE in 57° 4'N., 1° 30'W. (FOWEY, 1930/1). One bomb ATHELTEMPLAR. (FOWEY, 1932/1). My 1932. On fire but not sinking. (FOWEY, 1937/1). Proceed with all despatch to assist ATHELTEMPLAR on fire in 057° 11'N., 001° 45'W. No tugs available. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2044/1 to ERIDGE). Intercept ship on fire in 057° 11'N., 001° 45'W. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2118/1 to SPEEDWELL). Add to my 2228/1. If ATHELTEMPLAR is salvageable keep ERIDGE and use her to escort ATHELTEMPLAR to Methil. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2258/1 to S.O. 5th M/S Flotilla). Your 2245 not to S.O. 5th M/S.F. and F.O.C.O.S. (remains?) SEDA is coming ou again to take charge of operations and

/has

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

has been instructed to get ship to Methil.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2308/1 to SPEEDWELL).

Enemy aircraft bombing convoy in position 57° 4'N., 1° 50'W.
(FOWEY, 1943/1).

ST. AGNES. At 1350 ST. AGNES No.1. registered No. S.N.88 was attacked by German A/C 22 miles N.W. of W. Kinnaird Head 2 of crew were killed, no others injured. The crew state that an aerial torpedo penetrated wheel house. Ship entered Fraserburgh Harbour at 1550.
(DIO, Peterhead 1725/1).

HUGH WALPOLE. (A/S Trawler) K.J. position ship hit 057° 11'N. 001° 45'W.
(HUGH WALPOLE 1955/1).

Mining.

ZME.21. My 1002/28. Operations postponed further 24 hours on account of weather.
(PLOVER 0937/1).

The Naze. W.T.I. indicates heavy Minesweeping off the Naze overnight.
(D.D.I.C. 1156/1).

Swansea. Red mine detonated 1.46 miles from Mumbles Head Light at 1140/27/2.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1230/1).
One red mine exploded by L.L. 256° one mile 2.5 cables from Port Talbot south Pier Light.
One Blue mine exploded by single L 267° 7 cables from Port Talbot south Pier Light.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea, 1515/1 and 1750/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Tyne.

At 0955/1/3 one Red Mine exploded by S.A.Trawler in 121° North Tyne Pier Light 23.5 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1625/1).

Spurn Point.

The following three mines were exploded today. Details.
(F.O.Humber, 1805/1).

Oversay.

ST. APOLLO has sunk a mine in position 310° Oversay 6 miles considered German K.J.Type.
(AMBUSCADE, 1857/1).

Searches of War Channel.

My 1800/28. Operations postponed a further 24 hours.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2159/1).

Enemy Intelligence.

TARONGA.

Following report graded B.2. TARONGA, 700 gross tons reported to have been undergoing conversion, due to leave Oslo February, 28th manned with naval crew has 3 torpedo tubes each side 3 aft 3 each bow total 12 torpedo tubes. Maximum 21 knots. Not camouflaged. Painted WILHELMSEN colours. Icebreakers reported to have cleared a passage out of Oslo.
(D.D.I.C. 0205/1). (F.O.S.0841/1).
(C.in C. H.F. 1753/1 to Capt: D.6.)

Enemy Unit.

My 2300/28 and 0541/1. It now appears that position of enemy unit is within 150 miles of 9° 00'S., 62° 00'E.
(D.D.I.C. 1020/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

The Naze.	W.T.I. indicates heavy minesweeping activity off the Naze overnight. (D.D.I.C. 1156/1).
Brest Area.	A number of German Naval Aircraft are active in the Brest area. (D.D.I.C. 1219/1). Enemy air activity off Brest this morning may indicate HIPPER leaving harbour. (R.A.S. 1241/1 to OLYMPUS).
German Rescue Float.	German rescue float in Newhaven Harbour. Request instructions as to disposal. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1525/1).
HIPPER-Class Cruiser.	Air R/C today showed HIPPER Class Cruiser still in dry dock at Brest. (D.D.I.C. 1639/1).
Nickel shipment from Kirkenes.	A report has been received that a first shipment of 3,000 tons of Salmijarvi (Petsamo) nickel ore will be made early next week from Kirkenes ultimate destination Hamburg. Further details are being sought and will be sent to you on receipt. (Graded B.2.) (D.N.I. 1918/1 to F.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

A/A Guns.

The A.A.Armament in all merchant ships approaching or leaving U.K. is to be fully manned from dawn until dusk while ships are east of 20° W. Where necessary number of men in watch on deck is to be temporarily increased to meet this requirement. Any necessary overtime will be paid.
(D.T.D. 0150/1 to Commodores and N.C.S.O's)

Independent Sailings.

Your 1725/27. A.M. 1857/17/7/40 was intended to ensure Admiralty knowing for what port an independently routed ship was making. Reference A.M. 1913/14/1 and 1856/15/2 ships should not be sailed with defective d.g. unless a port abroad or Scapa or Clyde has been specifically nominated by Admiralty.
(D.T.D. 1831/1 to N.O.I.C. Curacao).

Convoy Information.

Attention of Commodores of Convoys is to be drawn to the fact that W.A.C.I. (Western Approaches Convoy Instructions) is included among their books and that valuable information is contained therein regarding U.K. approaches and coastal routes.
(D.T.D. 2058/1 to C.in C's).

Coastal Convoys.

F.S.24.

Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0219/1).
Absentees. (0946/1). 15 ships.
(0947/1). 8 ships for Tyne and Tees did not sail. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1129/1).
1 ship (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1716/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

E.N.79. 0630/1, escorts, 22 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0845/1). List. (1054/1). 1 addition. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1602/1.) BRIGAND not to join. (A.C.O.S. 1616/1). 2 ships to join. (N.C.S.O. Aberdeen, 1830/1). Position. (HUGH WALPOLE 2220/1). CURACOA joining (CURACOA 2256/1). My 1830, 1 returned. (N.C.S.O. Aberdeen, 2354/1).

F.S.23. 2 parts joined. (WALLACE 0905/1). Position, ships for London. (22). (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1100/1).

F.N.19. Group to join. (F.O. Humber, 0951/1). List. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1059/1). E.T.A. VIVIEN, 1215/1). Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1459/1). List. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1529/1).

F.N.21. Sailed 0833/1. 20 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1013/1) List. (1204/1). T.H.V. PATRICIA to join. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1420/1). Ships joining from Humber, (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1714/1). Cancel my 1714/1), no ships from Humber (0001/2).

F.S.25. My 1321/28, delete WOOLSTON, MEYNELL to escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1037/1). Sailed, 2300/1, 26 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2203/1).

C.E.27. Drifter to join. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate, 1115/1). BERKELEY to escort. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1737/1).

W.N.91. Position. (A.C.O.S. 1115/1). My 1030/28 ships joining W.N.92. (N.C.S.O. Lyness 1125/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.19, F.N.21, F.N.22, F.S.23, F.S.24. — Positions. (C.in C. Nore, 1200/1).

F.S.27. — Delete WOLSEY. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1215/1).

F.N. and F.S. — Forecast of sailings. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1217/1).

W.N.U. 92. — 1630/1, unescorted 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1244/1). 1700/1, unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1830/1). Position. (Commodore, 1925/1 to A.C.O.S.)

F.N.19, F.S.25, E.N.79, W.N.91. — Positions. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1600/1).

F.S.34. — NIGER to join for Harwich. (F.O. Humber, 1608/1).

C.W.28. — ATHERSTONE to escort. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1737/1).

W.N.93. — Escorts. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1900/1).

F.S.21, F.S.22, F.S.23. — Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 2058/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys.

O.B.C.292.	0200/1. escorts, 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0230/1). (List, 1045/1).
O.G.53.	In company, approaching Spartel, fog. (ARETHUSA, 0754/1).
O.B.O.292.	0730/1. escort, 1 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 0907/1).
O.B.U. 292.	1415/2, unescorted, 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1045/1).
O.B.M.293.	1930/2, YORK CITY. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1135/1).
O.B.U.293.	Ships to be diverted to Loch Ewe and join O.B.U.293. (C.in C. W.A. 1246/1).
O.B.294.	ST. CLAIR II to join. (C.in C. W.A. 1246/1).
S.L.67.	S.L.67. List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1258/1). Absentees. (1700/1).
H.X.112.	Sailing telegram. (S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1439/1).
H.X.113.	Advance sailing telegram. (S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1506/1). Ships with munitions. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1507/1).
O.G.O. 54.	1 straggler returned. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1527/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

O.G.54. LA MALOUINE to proceed with. (C.in C. W.A. 1625/1).

O.G.55. COREOPSIS to proceed with. (C.in C. W.A. 1625/1).

S.L.65. DIDO to part company. (C.in C. H.F. 1757/1). 59 ships, escorts, route. (C.in C. W.A. 1905/1).
Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1917/1 to PHILANTE, SUNFLOWER, etc.)

O.B.293.
O.B.297. Consequent upon the R/V for H.X.111 and H.X.113 being altered to more Northern latitude, O.B.293 and O.B.297 will be routed through the Minches. O.B.297 will therefore sail from Liverpool on (date).
(C.in C. W.A. 1845/1 to Admty etc.)

H.X.110. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D. 1937/1).

S.C.23. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D. 1938/1).

H.X.109. Altered destinations. (C.in C. W.A. 2222/1).

Routeing Forms. Outward routeing forms O.B. 288 and O.B.289 sailed 20/2 and 22/2 respectively received 1/3. It is essential that these forms reach Admiralty at earliest possible moment and utmost priority is to be given to ensure their despatch.
(D.T.D. 1142/2 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military Convoys.

W.S.7.

Request early report as to sea speed which each vessel of convoy W.S.7 will be able to maintain when ready to sail.
(D.S.T. 0422/1).

Your 0422/1. G.2. 18½ knots.
G.5. 20 knots.
G.11. 18 knots.
G.15. 17½ knots.
G.19. 19 knots.
R.118 18 knots.
(D.S.T. Glasgow, 1630/1 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1. 3. 1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

NORTHERN SUN. Will join RESTIVE as soon as VISENDA arrives to tow NORTHERN SUN in 062° 23'N. 011° 22'W. (PETUNIA 0002/1).
NORTHERN SUN now has situation under control and is returning to Thorshavn. She requests VISENDA to stand by.
(PETUNIA 0820/1).

TAKU. ENCHANTRESS has been instructed to proceed to assist TAKU reported broken down in 56° 36'N. 21° 07'W. at 2100/27 drifting Southward and to tow her through position A.56° 30'N. 14° W.
Request you will sail SALVONIA escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY through position A to meet TAKU and to tow her to Londonderry passing through position A on the return journey.
(C.in C., W.A.0026/1 to N.O.I.C.Londonderry.)
Intend to substitute GLADIOLUS for NORTHERN SPRAY escort for SALVONIA on account of GLADIOLUS greater speed and endurance.
(Capt.D. Londonderry. 0101/1).
Take SALVONIA under your orders proceed so as to comply with C.in C. W.A. 0026/1. Search for damaged submarine is to be maintained until limit of endurance. Damaged merchant vessels met en route are to be disregarded although survivors should be embarked if met.
(Capt.D., Londonderry 0655/1).
SALVONIA escorted by GLADIOLUS left Londonderry in accordance with C.in C., W.A.0026/1.
(Capt.D.,Londonderry 1215/1 and 1314/1).
Submarine TAKU damaged and unable to dive estimated very approximate position 055° N. 020° W. drifting slowly south eastwards. Any escort vessel making contact with TAKU is to stand by her and report her position when convoy is well passed.
(C.in-C., W.A.1643/1 to LINCOLN etc.)
Latest estimate of TAKU's position 1201/1 is 055° N. 020° W. drifting south eastward.
(A.C.W.A. 1829/1 to GLADIOLUS).
Add to my 1643/1. Before reporting position of TAKU escort vessel should proceed as far as possible from Submarine without risking losing touch with her.
(C.in C., W.A. 2309/1).

LEONIAN. Following received from Boom Defence Depot Ship LEONIAN. Begins: Have been hove to 24 hours. D/G short circuit by deck cargoes shifting. Compass now useless. Impossible to round Heimaey Island. Blowing whole gale. Ship unseaworthy. Request instructions. Ends.
Request you will proceed to her.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland. 0815/1 to Chitral).

/VILDA ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1. 3. 1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

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Request you will proceed to her.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland. 0815/1 to Chitral).

/VILDA ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS (contd).

VILDA. H.M.T. VILDA arrived Methil with boat stove in, davits bent and compasses defective. She is proceeding to Leith to-day to make good defects. (N.O.I.C. Methil 0934/1).

GEORGETOWN. (Destroyer) GEORGETOWN's 1400/26/2. Following damage sustained after being rammed by merchant ship. Work involved would take at least five weeks, vessel being in dry dock the greater part of the time. GEORGETOWN at present berthed in Glasgow. Request instructions.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow. 1111/1).
Your 1111/1. GEORGETOWN can be taken in hand at Immingham.
2. Ship may be detained in Clyde until arrival of new commanding officer.
(Adty.1927/1 to F.O.I.C., Glasgow.)

STANWOLD. (British, 1020 tons). Left Southend in C.W.27 on 26/2, has not arrived, and must be presumed lost with all hands. Ship was observed to have list to port on sailing. Reported steering badly at 2230/26. Last sighted at 0420/27 and reported to have a list to starboard. Several bodies washed ashore in the vicinity of Newhaven, one identified as John D. Potts Chief Officer s.s. STANWOLD. Loss of this ship may have been caused by foundering due to heavy weather as no reports have been received which would indicate loss due to enemy action.
(C.in C., Portsmouth 1527/1 and 1603/1).

BURNHAM. BURNHAM's starboard engine out of action until arrival of lubricating oil. Oil expected 0900 tomorrow.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea. 1655/1).

SUFFOLK. Requests extended notice for steam in view of following defects. Expect unable to put steam on main engines for about 1 week. Only forward engine room will then be available until turbine repairs completed. T.O.O.2141/27. Ends. Intend to approve.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 1850/28).

Unknown Ship. S.O.S. from unknown ship position 57 - 56 N 0203 W.
(Wick Radio 1515/1).

/NEW COMET ...

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

NEW COMET. (M/S Trawler) SOUTHSEA (Paddle M/S) MARJORIE M. HASTIE. (M/S Trawler)	Ref. Telephone enquiry NEW COMET raised and sank again p.m. 28.2.41., further attempt 3.3.41. SOUTHSEA will be taken in hand by Admiralty Salvage Officer as soon as possible. M. HASTIE not refloated and a further attempt will be made 14/3. (F.O.I.C. Tyne. 2046/1 to Adty.).
Drifter derelict.	Following from INDIAN STAR begins: Drifter derelict 057° N. 01° 54' W. 2010. Ends. Investigate as soon as practicable. (C.in C. Rosyth 2134/1 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.).
2 Uknown Ships.	1 ship in distress in 057° 04' N. 001° 50' W. and another in 057° 40' N. 001° 45' W. Salvage craft in the vicinity of both. (C.in C. Rosyth 2210/1 to Quantock).
DAROGAH.	Your 389 and A.L. of 21st February M/S.V.146/41 reason for the priority assigned is that experience shows that such a heavy lift as the DAROGAH can only be undertaken in perfectly fine weather. While waiting till such weather can be expected the lifting craft are fully employed on important work in sheltered water. (D. of Salvage 2105/28 to C.in C. Nore).
2 Derelicts in Cardigan Bay.	Intend to send tugs EMPIRE HENCHMAN and ABEILLE 21 now at Clovelly to slave two derelict vessels in Cardigan Bay. (C.in C. Plymouth 2328/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1. 3. 1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Enemy Unit.	My 2043/28. Further bearings. (D.D.I.C. 0603/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)
FIREDRAKE.	Aground in thick fog at 1015/1 near Gibraltar possibly Sardina Bay 036° 18' N. 005° 15' W. Sandy bottom. Assistance being sent. (F.O.C.N.A. 1130/1 to Admiralty). FIREDRAKE refloated and returning to harbour 11 knots under own power. Ship was ashore in position 36° 28' 30" N., 4° 45' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1616/1 to Admiralty).
ASAKA.	Your 0341Z/28, Japanese Special Service Vessel ASAKA arrived Bilbao 25/2 from Lisbon and is expected to leave on 10/3. (D.D.I.C. 1311/1 to C.O.I.S. Singapore, etc.)
H.G. 55.	Request particulars of any Ships for H.G. 55. Cancel my 1600/24 (H.G. 55 to be bunkered at Lisbon). (F.O.C.N.A. 1610/1 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).
Funchal Reports.	Informed by Portugese Captain of Port fisherman sighted convoy from Funchal 1700/24 northbound off Island of Porto Santo, and at 1900 G.M.T. large submarine was sighted off south east coast of Island cruising about on surface subsequently proceeding on Southerly course (C.3.) (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1615/1 to S.O.I. Gibraltar).
Air Report.	Flying cancelled by weather. 1 French Glenn Martin arrived from Oran. (200 Group, 1730/1).
s.s. GUINE (Portugese)	Report that member of crew is suspected German Agent and believed carrying German code for use with Agent in Cape Verdes. Plans for German supply bases in islands, &c. Captain of ship reported pro-British and would help. s.s.GUINE left Lisbon 27/2 for Funchal, Cape Verdes, and South America. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1844/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Free French M.V.'s

Your 2357/18. Degaussing not considered essential before arrival in U.K. where ships will be diverted to a suitable port for this purpose.
2. Ships for U.K. should be sailed in convoy without L.A. armament but consideration should be given to temporary supply of machine guns from local resources.
3. Permanent arming of these ships after arrival in U.K. will be taken up with Free French Forces. (D.T.D. 0029/1 to C.in C.,S.A.

PORT FREMANTLE.

Your 1808/25 and 1357/28 and my 1207/26. Position (e) and (f) confirmed. Route past Azores left to master purposely. Deviation will not affect time of arrival 5° N., ship having reserve of speed. (N.C.S.O.Montevideo 1020/1 to Admiralty).

VILLE DE MAJUNGA.

Intercepted by CORNWALL. See French Merchant Ships.

SAVA.

Overdue ship Yugo Slavian SAVA due Durban 26/2 from Vizagapatam not arrived. (S.O.(I)m Capetown 1055/1).

Shipping Complaint.

Frequent complaints are being received from Masters that other ships sighted by them do not comply with A M S I 224. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1120B/1 to Admiralty).

"S" Message.

My 1142/28 and Admty 1805/28 (re corrupt SSSS message received by Ascension) Following was received by Ascension at 0158/28. SSSS unread 1 on 18 20 mins unread WETTERKID. Ascension reported groups doubtful, message unfinished. Request any further information. (C.in C., S.A. 1132/1 to Admty).

DELHI, boiler retubing.

Admty 1031/17/11. Dockyard Simonstown now reports B4 boiler requires complete retubing. In May 1940 all boilers were sentenced to one year's life and final. Since then ship has already steamed ~~5446~~ miles equivalent approximately to 4 years' normal peace time steaming and over 100 tubes have perforated or split. I submit decision to carry out partia retubing only should now be reconsidered.

/ If DELHI

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

DELHI, boiler retubing. (contd).

If DELHI is to be reliable or have any operational value during extension of life required by Admty. 1031 strongly urged all boilers should be completely re-tubed. (DELHI 1143/1 to C. in C. S.A).

CHATEAU ROUX.

Your 1609/28. Acting on your 1237/26 I sailed CHATEAU ROUX independently yesterday with concurrence of French Liaison Officer. Regret ship was routed to Clyde in error instead of Belfast. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1521/1 to Admty).

French Shipping.

Your 1018/12. Your 2302/16/1 was not received here.
What are limits set for interception of French ships? (N.A. 1531/1 to Admty).

BRITISH CAPTAIN.

Tanker, overdue since 23/2 request information. (D. of S.T. 1838/1 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

LANCING.

Overdue shipping Norwegian ship LANCING due Port Stanley 26/2 from Rio de Janeiro not arrived (S.O.I. Montevideo 1912/1).

CILICIA. S.L. 67.

Departure 1800/1 CILICIA as ocean escort to convoy S.L. 67 in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1329/1. Local A/S escort ASPHODEL, H.M. Trawlers SPANIARD KELT TURCOMAN. (S.O.I. Freetown 2237N/1).

Mediterranean.

Glen Ships.

Re passing through Canal. (C. in C. Med. 1131/1 to S.O. Force Z). See Med. Vol.

/Operations.....

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

DELHI, boiler retubing. (contd).

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CHATEAU ROUX.

Your 1609/28. Acting on your 1237/26 I sailed CHATEAU ROUX independently yesterday with concurrence of French Liaison Officer. Regret ship was routed to Clyde in error instead of Belfast. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1521/1 to Admty).

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What are limits set for interception of French ships? (N.A. 1531/1 to Admty).

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/Operations.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Operations by UPRIGHT.

UPRIGHT investigated SFAX on 22/2 no ships were observed in roads. On 23/2 an unescorted darkened ship was hit with one torpedo in 034° 23' N. 011° 49' E. Ship burst into flames and (? word omitted). At 0240/25 in 034° 33' N. 011° 45' E. fired four torpedoes at central and largest of three warships steering 145°. One hit observed through periscope while diving. At 0615 after being hunted UPRIGHT came to periscope depth and (?saw) two ORIANI Class Destroyers in position of attack which were stopped or circling in the vicinity for 2 hours. Ship hit considered to have been ARMANDO DIAZ Class Cruiser but might have been NAVIGATORI Class Destroyer. Owing to very dark night identification and fate cannot be definitely determined. In view of V.A. Malta's 1645/27 consider no communique should be issued at present. (C. in C. Med. 1309/1).

Canal Minesweeping.

If you concur Captain H.W. Faulknor will be flown out to take charge, under S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, of measures necessary to keep Suez Canal open for shipping in face of enemy mining. (V.C.N.S. 1351/1 to C. in C. Med. S.B.N.O. Suez).

Identification between British S/MS and allied A/C and vice versa.

(C. in C. Med 1417/1).

Turkey A/S.

Information on A/S matters may be disclosed to Turkish Naval Authorities as considered necessary with following exceptions. (D.A/S W. 1520/1 to C. in C. Med).

ROVER.

Your 1552/28 ROVER will be ready to sail from Alexandria noon/4. (Capt. S.1 1529/1 to C. in C. Med).

Malta Air Raid.

1130/1 Six JU. 88's escorted by fighters dropped many bombs on N.E. and Southern Coast of Island many in sea causing very little material damage. 8 Hurricanes up but no engagement. (H.Q.R.A.F. Med 1750/1).

/Suez.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Suez Canal Mine Watching.	Your 1129/25 to C. in C. E.I. (re netting Canal) Adty doubt practicability of this scheme (reasons). In Admiralty view, problem can be most effectively tackled by perfection of the lookout system and means for subsequently detonating or removing mines. Suggestions. By A.F.O. 837/40 rewards are payable for information leading to the recovery of mines. Presume you have considered the application of this order to your lookout service. (V.C.N.S. 1752/1 to C. in C. Med).
Kastelorizo.	Your 0944/28. Assume you are sending a full report as soon as you can ascetain all the facts, which will enable us to rebut any false statements by the Italians. (~~C. in C. Med.~~ V.C.N.S., 1917/1 to C. in C. Med).
LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE.	Request ship now proceed Egypt with WS 6 B. (Movements M.E. 2250/1 to W.O. etc).
Malta, Mines exploded.	3 mines exploded in entrance to Grand Harbour on 1/3. (II) A Skid was being towed by H.M. Drifter PLOUGH BOY at time and one exploded close under her starboard side, one 30 yards on her starboard bow and one about 120 yards astern of her. Kango Hammer (2 Corrupt groups) and Skid was sweeping for blue mines. Drifter suffered serious damage and had to be beached. One rating missing 9 injured. (V.A. Malta 2301/1).
GASTORCA. Royal funeral party.	Spaniards inform me official deputation leaves Valencia 2000/3 for Civita Veccia in S.S. GASTORCA for funeral of King. Guarantee no cargo no improper passengers. Ship showing usual lights. Return sailing 8/3 or 9/3 same conditions. Request immunity from search etc. (N.A. Madrid 2358/1 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

STAR OF CAIRO. "Q" message.	British ship STAR OF CAIRO made a Q distress signal at 0127Z/1 when in position 007° N. 078° 05'. Message cancelled at 0210Z/1. Cancellation genuine. (C. in C. E.I. 0216Z/1 to E.I. Sqdn).
Forces V, T, W.	(1) Ships who are at present required to decode Force "V" signals are SHROPSHIRE, LEANDER, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA, HERMES, EMERALD, and DORSETSHIRE. The address Force V will be used as necessary to facilitate signalling and does not indicate a composite force. (2) Force T is composed of HERMES and EMERALD (3) Force "W" is composed of H.M. Ship operating off the coast of Italian Somaliland and is present composed of CERES only. (C. in C. E.I. 0604/1).
MAURETANIA. NIEUW AMSTERDAM.	My 0756/25 (? 0746/25 intended) and your 0737/26 (i) Subject to no further information of (?pocket) battleship in Indian Ocean, intend AUSTRALIA instead of CANBERRA to escort MAURETANIA and NIEUW AMSTERDAM to about 013° S. 104° E. Suggest HOBART and SYDNEY relieve AUSTRALIA as escort from above position. (C. in C. E.I., 0738Z/1 to A.C.N.B. Melbourne).
RANCHI.	To proceed to Durban so as to arrive a.m/2. (C. in C. E.I. 0736/Z/1 to RANCHI).
W.S.5BX. ENTERPRISE.	My 0746/25. W.S. 5 B.X. Leaves Bombay 5/3 for Singapore escorted by ENTERPRISE. (C. in C. E.I. 0744Z/1) See Operations Volume.
Summary of Raider Activities.	Following account of raider activities obtained from British seamen rescued from Italian Somaliland. Covers period from attack on SCIENTIST on 3/5/40 to grounding of DURMITOR off Warshuk, Somaliland 22/11/40. Original in Lion Copy only. (C. in C. E.I., 0810/1 to Admty).

/AUSTRALIA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

AUSTRALIA.)
EMERALD.)
HERMES.)
CANBERRA.)
LEANDER.)

Orders (C in C.E.I. 1152Z/1 and 1534Z/1) See Operations Volume.

CERES, rescued seamen.

My 1734/1. CERES E.T.A. Mombasa 1300Z/2 with following rescued prisoners (including masters) 169 British, 13 French, 36 Yugo Slav, 68 Lascars, total 286. (C. in C. E.I. 1902/1 to Admty).

Diversion of shipping.

My 2006/1 is being passed to you. Request adjacent stations will conform. (C. in C. E.I. 2000Z/1 to adjacent stations).
My 2006/1 Part 2(ii) (Note Part 1 not yet received) shipping North and West of line A - E and South of Mozambique channel is to be diversely routed where practicable.
(iii) Eastbound shipping to Far East is to use Achin Head Channel and westbound shippin the 010° channel.
(iv) Shipping to and from Seychelles and Mauritius is to conform to para. one as far as possible taking shortest route to and from line AE provided that the voyage is not unduly prolonged thereby. Ships sailing between Mauritius and Ports to North north east thereof are to be routed west of Saya De Malha. My 2006/1 part 3 final.
(v) para. one does not apply to ships bound for and from Australia which will continue to be diversely routed as at present.
(vi) No ship is to be routed between Guardaful and Socotra without permission.
(vii) Neutral ships should continue to be routed as at present.
(viii) Adjacent station informed. (C. in C. E.I. 2006Z/1 to Adty).

S/M sunk by R.A.F. near Dahlak Is.

C. in C. E.I. 2036/1 see U-Boat Campaign.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Shipping Restrictions.

Your No. 3 to me, 28/2. Restrictions on ships over 4000 tons were placedwith Admty's approval. I see no improvements in the situation such as warrant any alteration until we see results of Tokyo Negotiations over Thai Indo-China dispute. (C. in C. China 0337Z/1 to Consul Gen., Shanghai).

Oil Stocks, Shanghai.

Your 0323/12. Providing situation permits, request you take necessary steps to maintain oil stocks at Shanghai. (D.T.D. 1608/1 to C. in C. China).

QUEEN MARY.

A.C.N.B's 1345/28, request you delay sailing of QUEEN MARY if practicable. Request whether boiler cleaning can be carried out at Singapore. Signal will follow regarding anticipated date of sailing of U.S.10. (D.S.T. 2131/1 to F.O. Malaya).

America & West Indies.

LETITIA.

Your 1101/26/2. Report present condition. On receipt of above information, reply to your 1101/26/2 will be made. (D.N.C. 0557/1 to R.A.3 B.S).

BHX. 111. damage.

BRITISH HYLTON, BRITISH COLONIAL and Greek JOANNIS returned from BHX 111 with heavy weather damage. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1011/1).

IROQUCIS. BERNARD.

British IROQUOIS and Norwegian BERNARD returned from B.A.X.111 and S.C. 24. respectively both for engine repair. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1109/1).

TORONTO CITY.

Sailed A.M. today. Delay due to coal bunkering difficulties. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1213/1).

BISHOPDALE.
CARADOC.
DIOMEDE.

Following for BISHOPDALE. After loading Curacoa proceed to Jamaica to disembark stores from CARADOC. Leave Jamaica so as to transit Panama Canal 12/3 and R.V. with DIOMEDE at Chatham Bay Cocos Island at 1600 G.M.T./15. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1222/1 to S.N.O. Curacoa).

/Ships.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

Ships for U.K. with defective D.G.

Your 2008/26/2 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda. Request confirmation that ships with defective D.G. equipment may be sent to Oban or Loch Ewe. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1232/1 to Adty).

LARPOOL.

Your 1436/27. LARPOOL routed to Halifax due 27/2. earliest date. (D.T.D. 1239/1 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

DIOMEDE.

My 1152/21. DIOMEDE remains at Chatham Bay Cocos Is. until 5/3 if desired, then to carry out following programme. (a) Investigate anchorage in Galapagos Island for possible raider activity. (b) Arrive Callao 11/3 leaving 12/3.
(c) Proceed to R.V. with BISHOPDALE at Chatham Bay Cocos Is. at 1600Z/15. Callao pass to DIOMEDE and PRINCE HENRY.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1251/1 to DIOMEDE).

TREVILLEY.
HOPERIDGE.

Ministry of Shipping 1245/9 and 1235/17 British ships TREVILLEY and HOPERIDGE ot arrived. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1253/1 to Admty C in C. A.W.I.).

Trinidad loop defence.

Request answers to following (re indicator loop control) may be signalled without delay. (D. of L.D. 1655/1 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).
Reply (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1106/3).

FLORIAN.
NICHOLAS
ANGELOS.
WISLA.

Respective owners urgently enquiring for information. All overdue this side. Request advice. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2117/28).

Australia.

U.S. Convoy.

A.C.N.B. 1207/19 and S.S.T.O. India's 1245/25. Propose for consideration in view of difficulties in arranging onward transport from India, and improving position in Red Sea Zone, that (?a) U.S. convoy consisting of QUEEN MARY, QUEEN ELIZABETH, AQUITANIA, MAURETANIA, NIEUW AMSTERDAM, with total capacity 22000 should proceed to Suez without transhipment (A.C.N.B. 0538Z/1 to Admty etc).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

New Zealand.

Convoy A.V.5.	Date to leave Suva. Re escort by PRINCE ROBERT (N.Z.N.B 0022Z/1 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

SULLBERG.

28/2 arrival German Steamer SULLBERG.
(Valencia, T.H.I., 2345/1).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Ships at Kismayu accounted for.

My 0754/22 now established following ships definitely took refuge at Kismayu.

SAVOIA.	INTEGRITAS
LEONARDO DA VINCI.	CARSO
MANON	MARGHERA
ERMINA MAZELLA	ADRIA
UCKERMARK	PENSILVANIA
TANNENFELS	DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI
DORMITOR	KIONGA ASKARI

and SOMALIA which is only ship accounted for.
(? not accounted for)
(2) DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI accounted for vide Adty. 0802/27/2 to C.in C. Med. and C.in C. E.I. only.

YAMAYURI MARU

(3) Japanese ship YAMAYURI MARU unloaded petrol and rice but sailed prior SOUTHAMTON's bombardment. (C.in C. E.I. 0726Z/1).

FRANCO FASSIO

Your 1350/18. Only certain information available from Spanish source is:
Heavy explosion. No S/M seen. Ship sank in 3 minutes.
Means of rescue kept very quiet but not landed from S/M.
(N.A. Madrid, 1649/1, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

VILLE DE MAJUNGA intercepted.

(?Dealt) with French ship VILLE DE MAJUNGA in position 034° 08' S. 010° 18' E. on passage from Marseilles to Madagascar with 600 demobilized troops, two civilian passengers, 105 tons general cargo. Master refuses to navigate ship to Simonstown. Am putting party on board to take her in.
(CORNWALL, 0725Z/1 to C.in C. S.A.).
CORNWALL's 0725/1/3/41 and your 1013/1 not to Admiralty. If desired that Union Govt. should requisition this ship, as for two previous vessels, and after consultation with Union authorities, I propose to divert VILLE DE MAJINGA to Capetown where organisation is ready and facilites available. Strongly urge very early decision on both these questions may be made which will greatly assist in their execution.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 2138B/1, to C.in C.S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CANADIAN STAR. (British 8293 tons). Following has been read. SSSS CANADIAN STAR 54.20N., 14.50W submarine sighted on surface. (Lyness W/T 1030/1 Valentia Radio 1034/1).

CITY OF CALCUTTA. British 8063 tons. Received 1338 G.M.T. SSSS 58.22 N., 33.21 W, CITY OF CALCUTTA sighted submarine on surface. (Portishead Radio, 1302/1).
CITY OF CALCUTTA 58.22N., 33.31W. (as in signal) sighted submarine on surface 0630/1.
(Valentia Radio 1302/1).
Following received from Port Patrick radio. Intercept at 1345 G.M.T. SSSS 58.22N., 33.21 W., CITY OF CALCUTTA sighted submarine on surface 1346/2.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1346/1).

GAIRSOPPA (torpedoed ?15/2). British 5237 tons. Lifeboat from GAIRSOPPA washed ashore near Lizard, 1 survivor now in Helston hospital. 2 Dead. Survivor states vessel was torpedoed 14 days ago. Further details when survivor can be questioned.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1447/1).

BRITISH GUNNER MANSEPOOL (torpedoed 24/2) RICHMOND HILL (Casualty 28/2). Area vicinity 061° 15' 012° 20' has been well searched. No trace of BRITISH GUNNER or MANSEPOOL. Request instructions. Am in company with PRUDENT proceeding towards RESTIVE and position of RICHMOND HILL 062° 30' 015° 30' expect to arrive 0800/2.
(PETUNIA, 1940/1 to C.in C. W.A.)
1 ship torpedoed. Position 060° 20'N., 012° 18'W.
(MALCOLM, 2301/1 to C.in C. W.A.)
My 2301. My course and speed 131° 8 knots. All star shells expended require aircraft with parachute flares immediately. Position 060° 20'N., 012° 18'W.
(MALCOLM, 2315/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

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MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Attack on O.B.290, U/Boat Tactics.

Convoy O.B.290 was recently attacked at night by a single U/Boat which approached from astern and torpedoed the rear ships of centre columns. This is the first definitely recorded case of such an attack and shows the variations from the usual approach between bow and quarter and attack on wing columns may be expected.
(D.A/S.W. 0009/2 "A" message).

Submarines Reported.

1452. By D/F at 1452 German U/Boat in 050° 45'N., 008° to 009°W.
(F.O.(S) 1521/1 to 0.21 0.23 OLYMPUS).
By D/F at 1452/1 probably U/Boat in position 050° 45' N., 008° to 009° W.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1534/1 to Plymouth Command Area).

1522. U/Boat sighted in position 045° 33'N., 009° 30' W. at 1522/1.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1604/1 to OLYMPUS).

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.

Very indifinite and unreliable.

GERMAN.

3 N.W. of Hebrides 59° N., - 61° N., 8° W. - 14° W.
6 between 52°N., and 61°N near 20° W. on 27th May tend to move to eastward.
1 N.W. of Rockall 58° N - 59° N., 15° W - 17° W.
1 S.W. of Rockall 56° N., - 57° N., 15°W - 17° W.
1 54° 20' N., 14° 50'W. 1130/1
1 40 miles of 56° N., 10° W.
1 St. Georges Channel.
1 Off Mounts Bay.
1 about 49° N., 6° W. - 7° W.

ITALIAN.

3 in N.W.Approaches.
1 110 miles S.W.Freetown 2000/28.
(D.D.I.C. 1417/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

2309.	By MALLOW, 60.20N., 12.18W., 300° Butt of Lewis 215'. Delivered attack on doubtful contact. (B.3.) (D.S. 545).
Submarine sunk by R.A.F. near Dahlak Is.	(1) R.A.F. report sighting Submarine 015° 33'N., 040° 14'E., at 1040/1 G.M.T. (2) Two direct hits obtained on submarine while crash diving. (3) Stern lifted clear of surface and then submarine sank. (4) Large patch of oil. Observation kept for further 15 mins. No sign of submarine wreckage or survivors. (C.in C. E.I. 2036/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U-boat campaign.

C.in C. W.A. reports today on his intentions for co-operation by combined air and surface A/S striking forces in the Western Approaches.
It is reported that S.S. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (Norwegian), a straggler from Convoy H.X.107, was torpedoed on 19/2 in the N.W. Approaches and S.S. CAIRSOPPA, which left convoy S.L.64 owing to shortage of fuel, was torpedoed about 13/2 in the Western Approaches.

M/S Trawler ST. DONATS sank 35 miles east of the Humber at 0015 today as the result of collision with COTSWOLD yesterday evening.
COTSWOLD was damaged and will require docking.

British Air Activity.

Boulogne was bombed last night; the seaplane base at List today, Ijmuiden, the Helder and other targets were attacked today.
Beauforts of Coastal Command attacked a convoy this afternoon off Horn's Reef and hit with one torpedo a merchant vessel of about 2000 tons.
Routine patrols were flown today. The coast of Norway was patrolled from Stavanger to Trondheim and a special R.C. of Trondheim was carried out. Special A/S patrols were maintained in the N.W. Approaches.
22 convoys were escorted today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. SIMALOER was bombed and abandoned this morning in the N.W. Approaches.
Convoy O.B.291 was attacked this morning 85 miles west of Achill Head and S.S. STORAAS was damaged by a near miss.
Shipping in Lerwick Harbour was attacked twice today. Cable ship ARIEL and collier KIRKWOOD had a few casualties, and was slightly damaged. The enemy also machine-gunned Kirkabister Lighthouse. An enemy aircraft was damaged by ARIEL.
S.S. CASTLEHILL was bombed and sunk off Minehead today.

Mining.

Falmouth was opened this morning for vessels up to 18 ft. draught.
Mines were exploded off Blyth and Spurn Point.
Minelaying was carried out last night off the east and west coasts; estimated 20 aircraft engaged.

8.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

German and Italian aircraft, especially the former, are operating from Mandible and are becoming increasingly active in the Eastern Mediterranean, especially against the Suez Canal. C.in C. M.E. 1910/2 gives strength of British Air Forces in Egypt and Libya, and an estimate of German air forces in the Mediterranean.
The Italian air threat to Cyrenaica is at present almost negligible.

East Indies.

C.in C. E.I. has been instructed to report proposals for the future employment of former special service vessels CITY OF DURBAN, CAPE SABLE, BOTLEA, KING GRUFFYD.

8

S.S. VILLE DE STRASBOURG intercepted.

SHROPSHIRE intercepted the French S.S. VILLE DE STRASBOURG this afternoon about 100 miles S.E. of Cape St. Mary, South Madagascar, and is escorting her in to Durban.

Use of territorial waters by enemy.

The Admiralty today informed C.in C. E.I. of the action which he is authorised to take against enemy vessels which may try to make use of Yemeni or Saudi Arabian waters, Jibuti and territorial waters of French Somaliland.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Invergordon. Shortage of A/P Trawlers.	Reduction of A/P trawlers based on Invergordon seriously decreases efficiency of patrol for w which present numbers and types of trawlers allocated are insufficient. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1250/2).
ANTELOPE.	Is to be transferred to Home Fleet. (C. in C. W.A. 2149/2).
Gaps in Denmark Strait Patrol.	Should relief for Denmark Strait patrol reach Iceland late, gaps on patrol line will occur if arrival dates at Halifax as in my 2236/22 are adhered to. To reduce such gaps to a minimum, request I may be informed of longest delay acceptable for ships from patrol reaching Halifax. (F.O.C.N.P 22226/2 to 3 B.S).
Proposed A/S measures in Western Approaches.	C. in C. W.A. 2230/2 See Operations Volume.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.	At 2330/1 (D.C. 0004/2) At 1130/2 (D.C. 1142/2) At 2330/2 (D.C. 2352/2).
Bristol Channel.	Proposed coast defences (Dacoast Four 1013/2) See Operations Volume.
Orkneys Loop Repair.	Your 1235/1. Cable ship is due to arrive Orkneys about 9/3 for repairs to existing loop and H.D.A. systems. (D.A/S W. 1752/2 to A.C.O.S).
Scapa.	Progress Report 2nd March 1941 (R.A. Scapa 2015/2).
Faroes. A/A Guns.	Your 1053/1. Arrangements for manning A.A. guns in Faroes are being actively perused by War Office who hope to effect relief fort-night to three weeks. Admiralty 1710/25 refers. (D. of L.D. 2216/2 to A.C.O.S).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

CHITRAL.	Sailed for Halifax. E.T.A. 8/3. (F.O. Iceland 0902/2).
VICEROY.	Your position at 0825 has been reported by Enemy A/C. (D.C. 0921/2 to VICEROY).
UNBEATEN.	Intend to sail UNBEATEN at 1700/3 from Portsmouth unescorted diving by day via Needles Channel to R/V with 2 TOWN class destroyers 110°. Start Point 3 miles at 0930/4th. (S.5 0940/2).
TALISMAN. TORBAY.	My 1147/1. Delete all mention of TALISMAN. TALISMAN will now sail with TORBAY on 6/3. (S.3 1021/2).
HONNINGSVAAG. VESLA KARI.	My 1801/27. HONNINGSVAAG and VESLA KARI still weather bound at Akureyri. Hope to sail to-morrow. (F.O. Iceland 1039/2).
PANDORA. Instructions in case of separation from Convoys.	PANDORA sailing with H.G. 55. (B) If transfer arrangements from H.G. to O.G. convoy fail she will proceed to Gibraltar along track of O.G. 55 at speed of advance of convoy and 50 miles ahead. (C) In the event of complete separation from H.G. 55 PANDORA will proceed along route of convoy at its speed of advance as far as 049° N. then as in (B). (D) In the event of PANDORA becoming completely separated from O.G. 55 she will proceed along route of convoy to Gibraltar at its speed of advance (E) PANDORA will co-operate with C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A. and S.O. of escort of O.G. convoy in cases of (B) (C) and (D) when she is well clear of H.G. convoys. (F) C. in C. W.A. is requested to pass necessary information to S.O. of escort to O.G. 55 (G) Intend to make similar arrangements in future convoys. (F.O.C.N.A. 1044/2).
AURORA.	Sailed for Scapa in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 1941/27/2. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1220/2).
RESOLUTION.	Your position has been reported by Enemy A/C. (D.D.I.C. 1327/2).
COSSACK.	Intend to sail COSSACK 1815/2 for Scapa. E.T.A. 1200/4. Route. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1427/2).

/Northern.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.(contd).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler lines tonight. 2 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1433/2).

S/M's. — Positions at 0800/3 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1541/2).

PEGASUS. — Your 1100/2. PEGASUS must on no account be left unescorted. (C. in C. W.A. 2235/2 to VANOC).

Operations.

Operation CLAYMORE. — Covering force will proceed 1430/2.
(ii) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to provide A/S air escort during daylight/2. (C. in C. H.F. 1105/2).
Scapa departure NELSON, KING GEORGE V, EDINBURGH, NIGERIA, INGLEFIELD, ECHO, MAORI, ECLIPSE, PUNJABI. (A.C.O.S. 1445/2).

Operation N.C. — Will be carried out Zero time 0015/3. (V.A. Dover 1447/2).

British Air Activity.

Search for M/V's from H.X. 109. — One Sunderland from Sullom Voe 0800 to Butt of Lewis thence to 59 20 N. 8 50 W. to 60 29 N. 13 00 W. to 60 55 N 12 30 W. to North Rona to locate missing ships of H.X. 109. If 10 or more ships located A/C will escort. (C. in C. Rosyth 0706/2).

/Patrols.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Patrols.
Trondhjem.

Air patrol today TROST STAB BERT FAIR reconnaissance of TRONDHUEM, also special meteorological flight. (C. in C. Rosyth 0800/2).
18th Group Patrols. S.T.1 0900 S.T.2. 1430 for 3/3. (N.A. Station, Stornoway 1712/2).
Hudson A/C will be patrolling 20 miles to South of you during the night and may drop flares and attack enemy craft. (C. in C. Plymouth 1918/2 to RESOLUTION).

Escorts.

My 0110/2 first escort will be Anson aircraft on 385 K/CS relieved by Blenheim aircraft on 6000 K/Cs.
H.M.S. CURACAOS' 0155/2 search for second damaged ship should be arranged with aircraft co-operating if situation permits.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0626/2 to WOOLSTON).
In addition to A/S air escort close A/A cover will be provided by one Whitley from midday. (C. in C. W.A. 0935/2 to VANOC, PEGASUS, etc).
Expect escort by Hudson aircraft throughout daylight 3rd March aircraft frequency 6000 kcs. (C. in C. Rosyth 1942/2 to AMBUSCADE, etc).

Barrow and Millom Air Decoy.

D. of L.D. 1334/2 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

FORTH BANK.
ATHELTEMPLAR
(Bombed 1/3)

Your 2306. Return forthwith to Forthbank.
ARBEILLE IV is to tow ship to Invergordon.
You are to escort GAVOTTE proceed to rejoin convoy. (C.in C. Rosyth 0004/2 to WOOLSTON)
Tug ABEILLE IV has been ordered to take FORTHBANK from W.N.91 in tow in 57° 50' N. 01° 55' W. and proceed to Invergordon.
WOOLSTON has been ordered to escort.
M.S.5 with SPEEDWELL and ERIDGE have been ordered to take ATHEL TEMPLAR from E.N.79 in 57° 4' N. 01° 50' W. to Firth of Forth.
KELLET and ROSS are proceeding to join FORTHBANK. (C.in C. Rosyth 0050/2).
Convoys W.N.91 and E.N.79 in 57° 40' N. 1° 45' W. and 57° 11' N. 1° 45' W.
Attacked by aircraft at 1950/1/3.
ATHELTEMPLAR (E.N.79) Tyne to Curacao in ballast hit and on fire amidships.
Survivors taken off and effort being made to tow ship to Methil.
FORTH BANK (W.N.91) New York to Hull cargo steel machinery and general. Hit and on fire but fire under control and ship being towed to Invergordon.
German A/C crashed in sea off Melrose Head at 2055 and 4 of crew taken prisoner.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0057/2 to Adty.).
Fighter cover arranged for ATHELTEMPLAR.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0106/2 to LEDA).
Your 0016.
Confirmed A second ship in RUSTY was hit.
Trawler was ordered to search astern as it was thought ship fell out of convoy.
As PIROUETTE and GAVOTTE both appear to have been severed from FORTH BANK it is probable she located wrong ship. S.O.S. broadcast by Scapa W/T Station at 2052/1 was possibly from this ship. (CURACOA 0155/2 to C.in C. Rosyth).
Burn searchlights at short intervals to assist WOOLSTON to locate you.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0413/2 to ABEILLE IV).
Fighter protection being sent to S.S.FORTHBANK.
(Lyness W/T 0949/2).
Fighters being sent to assist ATHELTEMPLAR.
(Rosyth 1058/2).
My 1316 WATERMEYER sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1441/2).

/ WATERMEYER ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

FORTH BANK.
ATHELTEMPLAR
(Bombed 1/3)
(contd.)

WATERMEYER is to tow ATHELTEMPLAR to Methil where she is to anchor the night.
WATERMEYER will be required to tow ATHELTEMPLAR to Leith on 3/3 on receipt of orders from N.O.I.C. Methil.
Escort is to proceed in execution of previous orders as follows:-
(C.in C. Rosyth 1725/2).
WATERMEYER has taken over towing.
(SPEEDWELL 1735/2).
When FORTH BANK passes SUTORS proceed to Londonderry. (C.in C. Rosyth 1846/2 to WOOLSTON).
Air attack imminent on ATHELTEMPLAR.
(Rosyth W/T 2007/2).

Convoy W.N.91.
PENNINGTON COURT
(British, 6098 tons)
Bombed 1/3.

Your 2105/1. Confirm that 2 ships in RUSTY were hit. FORTH BANK in RUSTY and ATHELTEMPLAR in USAGE are only casualties located.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0016/2 to CURACOA).
CURACOA 0155/2. PENNINGTON COURT now in company with RUSTY reports she was hit by bomb. Damage above water. She made no S.O.S., no assistance required.
(HASTINGS 0900/2 (C.in C. Rosyth 1039/2 to Adty.).

LEEDS CITY
(Bombed 26/2)

Your 1935/2. After oiling return to base.
SUPERMAN should contact LEEDS CITY about 1200/3. (C.in C. W.A. 0224/3 to WINCHELSEA).
Proceed forthwith to assist LEEDS CITY in 54° 32' N. 11° 56' W. at 0340.
WINCHELSEA is standing by.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1115/2 to SUPERMAN).
Tow has parted for third time after LEEDS CITY had been in tow two hours. Neither ship has any more wire suitable for towing.
My position 54° 45' N. 011° 40' W.
Request tug may be sent as soon as possible.
MAN OF WAR now in company. WINCHELSEA will have return to Londonderry p.m. today fuel.
(WINCHELSEA 1301/2).
Your 1301/2. MAN-O-WAR should remain with LEEDS CITY unless essential to return to harbour. (C.in C. W.A.1612/2 to WINCHELSEA).

/ My 1115. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

LEEDS CITY (Bombed 26/2) (contd.) My 1115. Position of LEEDS CITY at 1301 was 054° 45' N. 011° 40' W. MAN OF WAR now in company. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1639/2 to SUPERMAN).
LEEDS CITY escorted by MAN OF WAR is in position 054° 42' North 011° 30' West now drifting in 120° direction at about one knot. Ship is floating well and easily salvageable in present weather conditions, tug SUPERMAN not joined, request information as to her position. Intend leaving this position at 0001/3 and making for Londonderry to refuel. (WINCHELSEA 1935/2).

Daylight Operations in S.W. Approaches. It is interesting to see how in little over ten days daylight reconnaissance carried out by this unit has developed into a systematic and dangerous offensive against shipping in St. George's Channel and our South Western Approaches. Details and dates. (Cheadle 0345/2).

A/C over Cork. Following received at 0709 A - W D DE A - GQ Unidentified A/C over Cork at 0700 hours going in a Northerly direction. G 2 C Annon. (C.in C. Plymouth 0709/2).

EMPIRE SIMBA (Bombed 1/3). My 1731/1 and my 2145/1. Sailed tug GOLIATH to position. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0845/2).

VICEROY. Your position at 0825 has been reported by enemy aircraft. (D.C. 0921/2 to VICEROY).

SIMALOER. (Dutch, 6533 tons) Bombed in 56° 40' N. 10° 46' W. at 0824/2. G.M.T.
(Lyness T.O.R. 0925/2) (Burnham Radio 0940/2).
Prepared to abandon ship at 0840 G.M.T. (Lyness T.O.R. 0941/2).
Proceed to assist SIMALOER bombed and abandoning ship at 0833/2 unless in contact with MEMPHIS. (C.in C. W.A. 1001/2 to COREOPSIS).

/ Aircraft Report SIMALOER ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Aircraft Report SIMALOER was in 056° 45' N. 010° 18' W. at 1335/2. Some Survivors were rescued by CLAN CAMERON.
(C.in C. W.A. 2312/2).

MELMORE HEAD (Bombed 26/2)

Investigating abandoned ship named MELMORE still seaworthy and capable of salvage, 265° LUPIN 66 miles. Request instructions.
(MANSFIELD 0930/2).
My 0930. Boarding party from (ROCKINGHAM ?) reports MELMORE HEAD's Boiler room full of water, otherwise seaworthy.
(MANSFIELD 1030/2).
Request you will sail NORTHERN SPRAY and MASTADONTE forthwith to assist MELMORE HEAD floating well in 55° 53' N. 10° 54' W. at 0930/2. MANSFIELD standing by.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1337/2 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
Request you will sail KINGCUP to R/V with Tug THAMES in 000° Tory Island Light 10 miles at 0800 to-morrow and escort her to assist MELMORE HEAD. MASTADONTE and NORTHERN SPRAY have already sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1343/2 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
You are to R/V with KINGCUP 000° 10 miles from Tory Is. Light at 0800 tomorrow and proceed with her to assist MELMORE HEAD.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1905/2 to THAMES).
My 1337/2. For position 55° 53' N. Read 54° 53' N. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2301/2 to NORTHERN SPRAY).

WOOLSTON.

One aircraft in sight - approx. course 090 degrees approx. height 1,000 feet, my position 57° 53' N. 1° 53' W.
(WOOLSTON 0933/2).

STORAAS bombed.

(Norwegian Tanker, 7886 tons). STORAAS damaged by near miss. TULIP standing by.
(VANOC 1100/2).

EMPIRE SIMBA bombed 1325/1.

(1) EMPIRE SIMBA. Form I.D.A.A. particulars.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1043/2).

/ Lerwick.
ARIEL and
KIRKWOOD attacked. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.).

Lerwick. ARIEL and KIRKWOOD attacked.

An enemy A/C identified as a JU.88 approached Shetland from westwards at 0840 and came in over Scalloway Lerwick and Bressay. Then circling left handed. The E/A came south down centre of the harbour at about 100 feet machine gunning ARIEL's Guns' crew and dropping 2 bombs which fell 150 yards ahead of the ship. Going south he machine gunned Kirkabister Lighthouse then made off first towards Sunburgh and then our eastwards. During the attack fire was opened by S/S GANNET, Cable ship ARIEL, Boom Drifters and examination drifter, and by Knabb A/A gun and some hits were probably scored by L.M.G. Fire. The fighters were over Lerwick seven minutes after the enemy aircraft attacked ARIEL but failed to make contact. There were three minor casualties amongst ARIEL Guns crew. Probably splinters from cannon shell. Otherwise no damage.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1111/2) (A.C.O.S. 1837/2.).
ARIEL bombed machine gunned Lerwick harbour.
(Lyness 1119/2).
KIRKWOOD arrived 1015/2nd. Subsequently attacked by enemy aircraft and sustained slight damage which will cause delay in discharge.
(S.T.O. Lerwick 1825/2).
At 1210 Skerries Coast Watching Station reported 3 aircraft thought to be German flying S.W. at 1220 these aircraft identified as DO. 17 flew low around Anderhill Bressay, and came in on the harbour from the east dropping 3 sticks of 2 bombs each on shipping and scoring 2 near misses on Collier KIRKWOOD. The aircraft were engaged by Bressay A/A Battery and by all L.M.G. in harbour. The aircraft turned north and made away to Eastward. Fighters arrived from Sumburgh at 1227 but failed to make contact. There was one slight casualty in KIRKWOOD. Extent of damage to vessel will be reported when ascertained but no water is being made.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1517/2).

DOUGLAS.

One aircraft approx. course 000 height 5000 feet, my position 59° 37' N. 7° 15' W.
(DOUGLAS 1122/2).

/ KINGSTON HILL.
(Bombed 22/2) ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.).

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/ KINGSTON HILL.
(Bombed 22/2) ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

KINGSTON HILL. (Bombed 22/2).	Report from Captain Kay on salvage. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1140/2).
RESOLUTION.	Enemy Aircraft are active in your vicinity. (D.O. 1140/2 to RESOLUTION). Your position has been reported by enemy aircraft. (D.D.I.C. 1327/2 to RESOLUTION).
Convoy W.N. Even.	Fighters being sent to an even numbered W.N. convoy. (Lyness 1320/2).
Unknown Vessel.	Automatic AAAA Signal heard 1402 G.M.T. strength 2/3 bearing from G K Z 23 R 5 degrees. (Humber Radio 1403/2).
ROTULA (Dutch Tanker, 7981 tons) bombed 1/3 and abandoned.	At 1315/1 in 52° 20' 30" N. 5° 29' W. bombed and machine-gunned by A/C. Abandoned. On fire aft. Anchored in 52° 20½ N. 05° 29' W. 17 missing including 4 Hollanders and 13 Chinese. Form I.D.A.A. particulars. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1745/2).
Convoy E.N. Odd.	Fighters being sent to Convoy USAGE. (Lyness 1824/2). Dangerous derelict approx. 052° 31' N. 005° 20' W. (Unknown Ship 2049/2 to Adty.).
Convoy F.N.Even.	One enemy aircraft in sight approx. course 300 degs. approx. height 2,000 feet of convoy AGENT my position 52° 25' N. 2° 1' E. (PITCHLEY 2130/2).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Minings.

Operation Z.M.E. 21. — My 0937/1. Weather still unsuitable. Operation postponed. (PLOVER 1027/2).

S.N.4. — It appears from daily disposition signals that U-Boats may be passing through deep water between S.N.5 and S.N.3. I suggest S.N.4 should be laid in the next operation. (C.in C. H.F. 1045/2).

Blyth. — At 1010/2/3. One Green Mine exploded by S.A. Gear in 1030 Blyth East Pier Light 2 miles. (P.M./S.O. N.Shields 1115/2).

Falmouth. — Port of Falmouth open for vessels up to 18 ft. draught. A dangerous area exists within 21/2 cables West Narrows Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1120/2).

Firth of Forth. — Firth of Forth latest searched Approach Channel as follows. (C.in C. Rosyth 1809/2).

Spurn Point. — The following three mines exploded today. Details. (F.O. Humber 1845/2.).

Enemy Intelligence.

Seven M/V's. — Aircraft report seven merchant ships steering north at 1006 position 054° 50' N. 007° 20' E. (F.O.S. 1236/2) (H.Q.B.C. 0020/3).

Naval Movement. — W/T Intelligence suggest possible movements of naval units northwards on Norwegian coast in near future. (D.D.I.C. 1850/2).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

Secret Envelopes. B.H.X.106 and 107. Reported interval of some hours between conference and time of sailing during which masters remained on shore with secret envelopes in their possession. Secret envelopes should be issued as near to the time of sailing as practicable, when masters should be transported to their ships and thereafter no communication with shore permitted. (D.T.D. 1211/2 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda).

Limitation to 40 Ships in W. App. In future no outward convoy is to exceed 40 ships without my permission. (C.in C. W.A. 1216/2, to N.C.S.O. Mersey).

Vesca Signals. Vesca signals are arriving very corrupt. Please endeavour to ensure correct cyphering.

Routes. Your 1020/1. Routes or sections of routes should NOT be left to Master's discretion vide A.M.1818/27/1 to C.in C. A.W.I. para. 1. (D.T.D. 1335/2, to Consul, Montevideo). Please instruct N.C.S.O. Colon reference A.M.1619/23 and 1933/29/1. (Instructions to N.C.S.O's and S.T.O's re VESCA signals). (D.T.D. 1337/2 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

Reporting of Independent Ships. A.M.1818/27/1/41. Request arrangements so that homeward bound independent M/Vs break W/T silence if they are going to be more than 3 hours early or six hours late in crossing Lat. 51° N. or long. 25° W. (C.in C. W.A. 1957/2 to Admty.).

Metal Cargoes. As soon as composition of convoy is known, names of ships carrying full cargoes of metal or heavy ore which are likely to sink quickly on being torpedoed will be signalled to F.O.i/c Greenock for information of rescue vessels. Signal will be in following form "HEAVY H.X.111 SYLVIA DE LARRINAGA EMPIRE PANTHER.etc." (D.T.D. 2117/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.

F.N.21. — No ships from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 0001/2 0940/2) 1 from Tyne (C.in C. Rosyth 1229/2 to WESTMINSTER, VERDUN, F.O.I.C. Tyne 1739/2).

F.S.24. — Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 0939/2) Position, 12 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1447/2) All arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1943/2).

H.N.78. — All 7 ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1005/2).

E.N.80)
W.N.93) — JASON as additional escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 1023/2) E.N.80, 0800/3, escorts, 18 ships, codes. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1115/2) VANITY as addl. A/A escort to E.N.80. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1912/2) Cancel my 1912 and 1914. VIVIEN and VANITY to escort E.N.80.

W.N.89. — Non-arrival 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1024/2).

W.N.92. — Position (A.C.O.S. 1033/2).

E.N.79. — Your 1246/1. HUGH WALPOLE to escort Loch Ewe Section. (Lyness 1100/2) E.N.U.79, 1100/3, unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1125/2) E.N.79 position (A.C.O.S. 1310/2).

F.N. and F.S. — Additional escorts (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1152/2).

C.E.27. — Time table. (C.in C. Nore 1224/2).

F.S.25. — Numbers joining. (C.in C. Rosyth 1231/2) Sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1501/2 List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1736/2) 7 ships did not sail from Methil (C.in C. Rosyth 1553/2) 7 ships from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1708/2 C.in C. Rosyth 2157/2) 8 ships from Tyne and Tees did not sail. (C.in C. Rosyth 1909/2).

/ F.N. 19. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.19.	Arrived 1245/2. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1252/2). Tyne ships arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1729/2).
F.N.22.	1113/2, 23 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1356/2) List (1438/2) 1 ship sailed for Grangemouth. (N.C.S.O. Harwich, 1551/2) 10 ships from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1706/2 C.in C. Rosyth 2155/2).
W.N.94.	Escorts. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1445/2).
W.N.91.	Arrived 1445/2. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1446/2).
Methil.	Anchorage Return (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1603/2).
F.N.16.	Non-arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1608/2).
10 M.V's	Sailed, escort. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1707/2).
W.N.93.	1947/2, escorts, 6 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2049/2).

Ocean Convoys.

O.B.C.293.	My 1002/28. For 0030/3 read 0100/4. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1004/2) Escorts for O.B.C.293 and O.B.O.293 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1745/2).
O.G.53.	Arrivals. (F.O.C.N.A. 1129/2).
H.X.109.	Estimate 24 hours late. (C.in C. W.A., 1021/2) MALLOW to escort Liverpool portion (MALCOLM, 1739/2) Air escort (C.in C. Rosyth 1750/2, 2018/2) DOUGLAS meeting (DOUGLAS, 2158/2).
S.C.22.	1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1150/2) 1 arrival (N.O.I.C. Barry, 1205/2).
H.X.113.	Advance sailing telegram. (S.C.N.O.Halifax, 1503/1).
O.B.U.292.	1500/2 unescorted, 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1556/2).
S.L.65.	SHEFFIELD's 2300/1. Fast and slow portions to re-unite and subsequently split at R.V. in my 1905/1. (C.in C. W.A. 1621/2 to DIDO).

/ S.L. 64. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

S.L.64. HARTLEBURY, PLM 17, GAIRSOPPA and SIMALOER all had to leave Convoy due to lack of fuel. The two latter were subsequently sunk, GAIRSOPPA by U/B 50' West of Fastnet and SIMALOER by bombing 100' N.W. of Bloody Foreland. Remainder of S.L.64 all arrived safely. (D.T.D. 1646/2 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

S.L.70. BIRMINGHAM to escort (D.O.D.(F) 1649/2). See Operations Volume.

H.G.57
O.G.54. Estimated 0500/13 ROCHESTER will bring back H.G.57 and LA MALOUINE is to act according to orders in my 1625/1 (Escort 0954). Detailed orders will be issued by F.O.C.N.A. (C.in C. W.A. 1721/2, to LA MALOUINE).

O.G.54. Sailing telegram (C.in C. W.A., 1713/2).

H.G.57. Re orders to ROCHESTER. (C.in C. W.A. 1726/2 to F.O.C.N.A.).

S.L.65 F.
S.L.65 S. My 1905/1.
DIDO, PHILANTE, BRIGHTON, BROADWAY, ROCKINGHAM, MANSEFIELD, VANOC, VOLUNTEER, WALKER, escort S.L.65 fast.
CAMITO, CAVINA, ZAMLEK, proceed with S.L.65 fast.
PEGASUS, CALDWELL, TULIP, SUNFLOWER, DIANELLA, escort S.L.65 slow.
(C.in C. W.A., 1808/2, to DIDO).

O.B.291. FLEETWOOD to remain with. (C.in C. W.A., 1937/2).

H.X.109 U. Arrived 1730/2 (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1953/2).

O.B.292. List. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1954/2).

O.B.M.293. Sailed 1934/2. List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 2010/2).

H.X.110. AUBRETIA sailed to meet. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2015/2).

H.X.111. Heavy (D.T.D., 2304/2).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military Convoys.

W.S.7. Speed of Ships.	Reply to Adty. 0422/1. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 1028/2 to Adty.).
REPULSE FURIOUS STRATHMORE	Admiralty 2247/28. A/S Escort. (a) O.R.P. GARLAND escorting STRATHMORE from Liverpool. (b) OTTAWA, ASSINIBOINE, CHURCHILL escoting REPULSE, FURIOUS, ALCANTARA from Clyde. (c) VANSITTART, WIVERN, CHARLESTOWN, LANCASTER to R/V 0800/5 in position 225° Oversay Light 6 miles. (C.in C. W.A. 2144/2).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

RICHMOND HILL (British, 7500 tons)

Your 1940/1. Proceed with PRUDENT to estimated position RICHMOND HILL 061° 30' N. 017° 55' W. at 0001/2. RESTIVE has been ordered to rendezvous you in this position.
(C.in C. W.A. 0134/2 to PETUNIA).
Estimated position of RICHMOND HILL at 0001/2. Proceed to this position to rendezvous with PETUNIA and PRUDENT.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0205/2 to RESTIVE).

KELLETT

Have been in collision with Trawler NORTHERN REWARD in 057° 40' N. 001° 43' W. Am badly damaged on waterline on port side. Am proceeding to Peterhead escorted by ROSS.
(KELLETT 0418/2).
Following Damage sustained as result of collision with NORTHERN REWARD. No apparent damage below waterline. Estimate repairs to render ship seaworthy for fair weather passage can be carried out at Peterhead in two or three days.
(KELLETT 1101/2).

BEAVERBRAE

Arrived for D G repairs.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 0859/2).

COTSWOLD

Following damage sustained in collision with Trawler SAINT DONATS near 59 A Buoy at 1959/1. Not making water abaft number 4 bulkhead but docking considered necessary. Ship is with F.S. No. 24 and 12 knots can be safely maintained into present wind and sea.
(COTSWOLD 0940/2).

ST. DONATS.

(M/S Trawler) Sank at 0015 today in 53° 29'N. 01° 06' E. Was reported in collision with COTSWOLD at 2023 approximately yesterday.
No casualties.
(F.O. Humber 1012/2).

TAKU

Indicate your position. (ENCHANTRESS 1054/2 to TAKU).
Do not reply to ENCHANTRESS 1054/2 until after dark tonight. (C.in C. W.A. 1224/2 to TAKU.).

/ PERSIER. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.3.1941.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

PERSIER. (Belgian S.S.) Ashore east of Vik. Master reports consider ship could be saved if good tug available. Only tug available Iceland River tug TANGE. As trouble previously experience with her consider it dangerous to send her to south coast she is also urgently required full time Reykjavik. Rescue Tug essential which could also attempt salvage SONJA MAERSK. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1239/2).

NOSS HEAD. Raft and two bodies now identified as members of crew S.S. NOSS HEAD of Leith, sailed Leith 26/2 for Kirkwall washed ashore at Deerness P.M. 1st March. Raft marked NOSS HEAD Leith found Tarracliffe Bay A.M. to-day.
(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1500/2).

GEORGETOWN. Intend to sail GEORGETOWN p.m. tomorrow in accordance with Admiralty's 1927/1.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1616/2.).
A.M. 1927/1 plus is cancelled. Further signal will be made.
(D.O.D.H. 1857/2 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

NORTHERN REWARD Has arrived Aberdeen after collision with KELLETT. Damage extensive above water line on either side of stern. Vessel does not require immediate docking. Repairs can be effected during refit.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1812/2).

OURAGAN. AMBUSCADE's 1605. Condenser trouble continue. Returning to base. E.T.A. 1200/3.
(OURAGAN 2205/2).

SUFFOLK. Details of damage to Turbines. Proposals. Request approval.
(N.O.I.C. Glasgow 2240/2.).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

FIREDRAKE. (aground 1/3).	My 1616/1. FIREDRAKE returned to Gibraltar at 1850/1. (F.O.C.N.A. 0002/2 to Admty).
S.S. GUINE.	My 1844/1/3. GUINE arrived Funchal 1/3 and left same day for St. Vincent, C. Verde Is. (S.O.(I) Gib., 1036/2).
S.L.S.64. Survivors.	My 1735/28. ARDEOLA sailed 0900/2 with 82 survivors S.L.S.64. Due Gibraltar 1600/3. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1104/2).
STRATHMORE SHEFFIELD.	Admty 1103/27. 500 Naval ratings being sent in STRATHMORE. (Details). Requested you will arrange for as many of the relieved ratings as possible to be sent home in the ship. F.O.Force H. requested to arrange for SHEFFIELD to escort STRATHMORE as far as R/V with A/S escort in N.W.Approaches. (D.O.D.(F) 1251/2 to F.O.C.N.A. F.O. Force H).
S.S. BELGIQUE.	My 1208/8 and subsequent signals. Cargo consists wheat and barley underneath. There is a shortage of cattle.fodder in Gibraltar and H.E. asks that 100 tons barley be left in ship when unloading in Spain and brought back to Gibraltar for discharge there. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1510/2 to Admty).
ARK ROYAL.	Intend proceeding sea in ARK ROYAL at 1330/3 until P.M./4 for flying exercises. (F.O.Force H, 1551/2 to Admty).
Air Operations.	Daily Summary. Area covered 2° W., to 10° 30'W. Flying curtailed by weather. (200 Group, 1725/2).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

W.S.6.	Arrival 0900/2. BIRMINGHAM, PHOEBE, CATHAY with Convoy W.S.6. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 0927N/2 to Admty). Re stronger escort after Cape. (D.O.D.(F) 1649/2 to C.in C's E.I., S.A) See Operations Volume.
LANCING.	Overdue shipping my 1912/1 Norwegian LANCING arrived Port Stanley. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1007/2).
ROXBURGH CASTLE.	Overdue shipping ROXBURGH CASTLE due Capetown 27/2 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1040/2).
VIVA.	Overdue shipping, Norwegian VIVA, due Capetown 27/2 from Trinidad not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1042/2).
CATHAY, CHRISTIAN HUYGENS.	Your 2307/19. After CORNWALL has joined W.S.6., CATHAY may be detached as necessary to provide escort for CHRISTIAN HUYGENS. (D.O.D.(F) 1625/2 to C.in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

PROTECTOR.	Could be most usefully employed in assisting to clear Suez Canal. May she be retained for the present. (C.in C. Med., 1108/2 to C.in C. E.I.)
W.S.6.	Your 2337/28. This was confirmed in my 1633/24. (Re high explosives). (D.T.S.D. 1212/2 to C.in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Valona Bombed.	Operational Summary No.265 up to 1200 hours 2/3/1941. 9 Blenheims escorted by 9 Hurricanes bombed Valona. Bombs bursting among barracks North East of Jetty, on munition dump and military stores, other buildings also hit. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1229/2).
UPHOLDER.	Sail 1830/3 and after exercising proceed through 035° 35' 014° 08' and 034° 10' 012° 05' to carry out offensive patrols in area G.034° 10' 101° 40' - 000° - 50 - 70. (Comdr. (S) 1, 1247/2 to UPHOLDER, amended 1222/3).
Aircraft, situation in Med.	C.in C. Med. 1412/2 See Mediterranean Volume.
UNIQUE.	Cancel my 1012/27 UPHOLDER sailing p.m./4 to operate in area G or in my 1247/2 to UPHOLDER. Contimue patrol in area V South of 34° and West of 012° 20'. (Comdr. (S) 1, 1420/2 to UNIQUE).
Malta Air Report.	Combined service report Malta up to 1600 G.M.T. 2/3. 0810 - 0910 G.M.T. approx. 20 enemy aircraft probably all fighters with 1 JU. 88 circled island. JU.88 flew across island but dropped no bombs. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1615/2).
Suez Canal Mines.	Admty. 1756/28 para one: (a) Yes, improvised S.A. Sweepers commenced operating 1/3 (c) all sweeping vessels have tried Lewis gun fire in the vicinity of mines without result. (d) After first attack D.W.I. Aircraft exploded four mines. No further success has been obtained despite repeated sweeping for both red and blue mines. Aircraft continue to sweep daily. There is no intention of giving up this sweep until it has been proved to be ineffective. (e) S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area is investigating this.

/para.2.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Suez Canal Mines. (Contd.)	Para.2. This has been tried but is only effective in depths up to 20 feet. Para.3. S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area is considering these proposals. (C.in C. Med., 1704/2 to Admty).
GASTORCA.	Your 2358/1 (Funeral of King of Spain). Request route and speed may be communicated to authorities addressed in order that immunity may be assured. (D.O.D.(F) 1742/2 to N.A.Madrid).
A.S.16.	Your 1112/2, sailing of A.S.16 has been postponed 24 hours. (N.A.Athens, 1751/2 to C.in C. Med.)
French Shipping, East Coast of Tunis.	Your 1112/22. Considered undesirable to ask French Govnt., to notify movements of their ships since the enemy would probably learn of the notifications and act accordingly. Following note to French Govnt., is under consideration by the Cabinet. You will be informed as soon as action can be taken in accordance with note. (Head of M. 1800/2 to C.in C. Med.)
Greece.	Following from Chiefs of Staff, No.63 to C.in Cs. Med., and M.E. If he has not already done so, we suggest C.in C. M.E. should reply direct to Sir Michael Palairet, Athens, in answer to para.1 and 2 of Athens telegram No. 291 dated 1/3 and repeat to us. (1st S.L. 1845/2 to C.in C. Med.)
Tripolitania.	Apprectiation of military and air situation. (C.in C. M.E. to W.O. 1910/2). (Original in Lion copy only).
Air Attacks on TERROR 22/2, 23/2.	Details. (C.in C. Med., 1728/2).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Sweeping Greek and Turkish harbours.

Your 1001/27/2. It does not appear appreciated that likelihood of being able to spare craft from Med., Station resources for sweeping Greek and Turkish harbours is extremely small, and that if such action has to be taken it can only be at the expense of Alexandria and Canal Area for several months to come.
The Turks should there-fore be encouraged to develop their own minesweeping resources to maximum.
(C.in C. Med., 2330/2 to Admty).

East Indies.

Enemy Vessels in Yemenite Waters.

Reply to C.in C. E.I. 0614/16. Policy. (Head of M., 0135/2) See Operations Volume.

RAMB I (captured).

Your 1553/28 re RAMB I. (1) No definite information obtained yet. (2) It appears orders were to be transmitted by Genoa. (3) PEARLEAF has arrived with prisoners further interrogation proceeding.
(C.in C. E.I., 0514Z/2 to Admty).

B.N.18.

Sailing from Aden of Suez portion B.N.18 is temporarily delayed. In order to minimise congestion at Aden, ships from Colombo Kilindini Bombay and Persian Gulf due to proceed Aden to join B.N. convoys for Suez are not to be sailed until further orders.
(C.in C. E.I. 0560Z/2 to N.C.S.O's).

HECTOR.

My 0822/24. HECTOR is to leave Aden p.m./6 and proceed Bombay at 15 knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 0639Z/2).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

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The Turks should there-fore be encouraged to develop their own minesweeping resources to maximum.
(C.in C. Med., 2330/2 to Admty).

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(C.in C. E.I. 0560Z/2 to N.C.S.O's).

HECTOR.

My 0822/24. HECTOR is to leave Aden p.m./6 and proceed Bombay at 15 knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 0639Z/2).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

HAWKINS. To leave Aden a.m./5 and proceed at 21 knots to Port Victoria, Seychelles. (C.in C. E.I. 0718Z/2 to HAWKINS).

U.S.9. Following transports sailed in U.S.9. Part one 26/2. from Bombay. List. (S.S.T.O. India, 0901Z/2 to P.S.T.O.Egypt)

Ex-Italian Prizes, DURMITOR. My 1106/26/2. (to N.O.I.C. Kilindini only) (1) As regards crews comply with my 0632/2. (2) British Masters and Officers to be asked (a) if they will volunteer to take ex-Italian prizes to Bombay with normal rates of pay. (b) If they will volunteer for permanent service in same ships when put in to service, subject if necessary to concurrence of owners of their late ships (3) Subject to numbers available, complete 4 prizes to steaming complement and sail them to Bombay as soon as possible after conclusio of prize-court proceedings. (4) LEONARDO DA VINCI should be provided with officers and crew sufficient to get ship into serviceable condition as soon as possible. (5) Officers arriving Mombasa from Durban Bombay and Aden are urgently required to return to their proper duties. (6) Yugo-Slav DURMITOR at Kismayu should be steamed as soon as possible with own crew under armed guard to Mombasa for prize court proceedings. (C.in C. E.I., 1209Z/2 to N.O.I.C. Kilindini.)

RAME I. (Sunk 27/2). Description of incident. (C.in C. E.I. 1218/2.) (In Lion Copy). Your 1148/26. It is now desired that ADRIA, MANON and LEONARDO DA VINCI should be sailed for Bombay and ERMINIA MAZZELLA and SAVOIA for Durban. Request probable dates of sailings. (D.T.D. 1328/2 to C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Air Report, Massawa bombed, Submarine claimed sunk.	Operational Summary 265 up to 1200 hours 2/3/41. 3 Blenheims bombed submarine base Massawa, 3 bombs hitting jetty while others burst very near. One R/C Blenheim located and sank submarine near Dahlak Island. Photographs confirm exact position unspecified but will be ascertained from unit. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1232/2).
Navigation Lights.	My 2006/1. Dimmed navigation lights are to be exhibited by merchant vessels on E.I. Station in following areas. In all other areas merchant vessels are not to burn navigtn: lights except to avoid collision. (C.in C. E.I. 1416Z/2 to E.I.Station).
Massawa bombed by F.A.A.	(1) Five Albacores from FORMIDABLE attacked Northern Harbour Massawa shortly after dusk 1/3. (2) Bombs dropped on small floating dock believed to contain a submarine. Explosion observed. Remaining bombs not observed owing to searchlights. (3) All aircraft returned, no casualties. (C.in C. E.I. 1802/2 to Admty).
Disguised Freighters.	To cease activities forthwith. Future employment. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C.in C. E.I. etc., 2116/2). See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

LARPOOL.	My 1430/27/2 and your 1239/1 LARPOOL arrived Halifax 1/3 and is proceeding to St. Johns Newfoundland to discharge and load. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1104/2 to Admty).
PRINCE ROBERT.	Your 0022Z/1. See my 1559/28. Essential PRINCE ROBERT returns to Esquimalt. On arrival at Esquimalt C.O.P.C. Esquimalt report earliest date she can arrive at Suva having completed refit. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1243/2 to N.B. Wellington).
DRAMATIST.	My 1217/26. (LUNULA and DRAMATIST not arrived). British ship DRAMATIST delayed by weather arrived Barbados 1/3. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1257/2).
P.A.C. Rocket Device.	My 1056/12/1 and C.in C. W.A. 1616/26. I am still without information as to the P.A.C. Rocket Device. Useful technical instruction could doubtless be given by N.C.S.O. Bermuda if details were available. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1526/2 to Admty).
S.S. TREVILLEY S.S. RAIN.	My 1253/1. TREVILLEY arrived at Colon 1/3 March. Ref: 1310 Ministry of Shipping 5/2 EMPIRE RAIN not arrived. (S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 1702/2).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Japanese Fleet.	Japanese combined Fleet are exercising near 28° N., 130° E. (C. of I., Far East, 0527Z/2 to Admty).
PANANG.	My 0309/1. PANANG is to be sailed to Calcutta. (F.O. Malaya, 0959Z/2 to N.O.I.C. Penang).

Australia.

W.F. Messages.	W.F.67. Following W.F. Messagesare in force. (A.C.N.B., 0206Z/2 to Admty etc.)
Ships for East Indies.	Your 0738Z/1. (Note to Admiralty) Concur. In view of Naval Board Melbourne's 0737Z/26 (Placing of certain ships under East Indies command). request you will issue necessary orders. (A.C.N.B. 0306Z/2 to C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ARKADIA	Left Istanbul 1/3 for Braila. (Galata 1117/2).
LEESEE	Message 2000/28 (Re German ship LEESEE) from British Consul Vigo is being repeated to you. (H.W.R. 1940/2, to F.O.C.N.A.). Reason to believe LEESEE may have left as early as 24/2 and joined the PLUS and Italian ships CLIZIA and CAPO LENA when they sailed from Bilbao 24/2. (D.S. 545). Reported from Vigo that LEESEE sailed 28/2, destination unknown. (F.O.C.N.A., 2111/2, to N.A. Stn.).
BRAKE.	BRAKE left Ferrol 2/3 0002, destination unknown. (Coruna, 2125/2).
RAMB I.	Reply to 1553/28. (C.in C. E.I. 0514Z/2) See East Indies.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

DERNA	Arrival 2/3 from Genoa. (Barcelona 1307/2.).
PASUBIO	Sailed 1/3 for Fiume. (Susak T.H.I. 1050/2.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MONTAGEL and 1 ship.

St.Thomas Virgin Islands 25/2 for Casablanca 8 knots possibly along 024° N.
One unknown French from Fort de France 24/2 Casablanca 14 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1246/2 to N.A. Stn.).

VILLE DE STRASBOURG

Intercepted, escorting her to Durban Speed 9 knots Too rough to board.
026° 30' S. 047° E.
(SHROPSHIRE, 1603/2, to C.in C. E.I.).
SHROPSHIRE's 1603/2. VILLE DE STRASBOURG should be sent to Simonstown if practicable.
(C.in C. S.A., 2017N/2 to C.in C. E.I.).
SHROPSHIRE's 1603Z/2 is passed to you.
(C.in C. S.A., 2030/2 to Admty.).
My 1603Z/2. French ship VILLE DE STRASBOURG Hove to. Will not move. Standing by.
(SHROPSHIRE, 1815Z/2, to C.in C. E.I.).

VILLE DE MAJUNGA

F.O.I.C. Simonstown 2138/1 and CORNWALL 0725/1. My 1031/1 asked Trawler to be sent to escort ship to Simonstown. Intend ship shall be diverted to Capetown as proposed and request early decision about requisition.
(C. in C. S.A., 1727/2, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (torpedoed 19/2). Norwegian, 7034 tons, straggler from Convoy H.X.107. Survivors landed Liverpool report that this vessel was torpedoed and sunk approx. 35° miles N.W. of Ireland at 2130/19. (D.O.R. 2/3).

HUNTINGDON, BRITISH GUNNER, MANSEPOOL (torpedoed 24/2) All now presumed lost. (D.S. 545.).

CADILLAC (torpedoed 1/3) British tanker, 12062 tons, in Convoy H.X.109.
My 2301/1 Searched area of burning wreck for U-Boat until 0130 without result. Five survivors from CADILLAC on board. Returning to Convoy. My p.c. and s. are 059° 48' N. 011° 20' W. 131° ten knots, (weather). (MALCOLM, 0411/2, to C.in C. W.A.).
Whiteley Aircraft at Daylight will search area between 59.41 N. 09.46 W. and 60.20 N. 12.18 W. for U-boat reported by MALCOLM 2300/1 and to locate damaged ship. (C.in C. Rosyth, 0546/2).
Your 0546/2. S.S. CADILLAC cargo petrol torpedoed and burnt 060° 20' N. 012° 18' W. by 0314/2. Five survivors seriously injured on board MALCOLM. Escorts MALCOLM, MALLOW, have not found ? No star shell remains. Request night air escort with parachute flares from dark today Sunday. Initial position to be signalled when convoy located. (MALCOLM 0746/2, to C.in C. Rosyth).
Has CADILLAC sunk? (C.in C. W.A. 0940/2 to MALCOLM).
My 0746/2. Request aircraft detailed for night escort duty may be instructed to release flares in accordance with C.in C. W.A.'s 1622/25/10 on seeing rocket fire or merchant ship in flames. Aircraft to burn downward recognition lights after releasing first flare to indicate position for signal from surface ships. Consider U-boats are firing at about 1000 yards range. (MALCOM, 1002/2 to C.in C. Rosyth).

/ CITY OF CALCUTTA (sighted U/B 1/3) ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

CITY OF CALCUTTA (sighted U/B 1/3)

Report your position course and speed. (A.C.W.A. 0751/2, to CITY OF CALCUTTA).
Your 0940/2 CADILLAC still burning when last seen 0230/2 in 060° 20' N. 012° 18' W. Regained touch with MALLOW at 1015 in 059° 10' N. 009° 45' W. MALLOW adjacent to s.s. CADILLAC port (corrupt group) ship of line reports gained contact and delivered attack on doubtful contact at 2309/1. Also investigated ICELANDIC as far as possible burning navigation lights close to position of attack on CADILLAC. This is second occasion on which (? amalgamated) ships showing lights were within a few miles of a ship torpedoed.
(MALCOLM, 1129/2, to C.in C. W.A.).
Cancel my 1250/1. Request you will sail tugs ST. OLAVES and SEAMAN as soon as possible to assistance of S.S. CADILLAC in 60° 20' N. 12° 18' W. at 2301/1.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1405/2, to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).

Unknown Ship.

Following has been read.
3333 Unknown ship 60.09 N. 10.29 W. followed by submarine.
(Lyness W/T, T.O.R. 1552/2 1655/2).

Submarines Reported.

1325.

531° N. 26.43 W. ORCADES sighted submarine, visibility good, cloud base 5000 feet. (ORCHADES 1325/2).
53.10 N. 27.43 W. ORCADES sighted submarine, visibility good, cloud base 5000 feet. 1325/2. (Ends).
(Valentia Radio, No[illegible].O.O./2).
ORCADES 53.10 N. 27.43 W. cancel my 3333 1315/2 (Valentia Radio, 1346/2).

/ 1412. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.3.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

1412. One U-boat 20 miles astern. Request confirmation that air night escort with flares will be available to illuminate in the event of attack. Require BURNHAM or DOUGLAS by 2000 today to ensure success of counter attack. My p. c. and s. 058° 58'N. 009° 56' W. 100° 9.5 knots MALLOW and four ships in company.
(BLUEBELL, 1412/2, to C.in C. Rosyth).

1412. 59.05 N., 10.30 W., MALCOLM reported U/B 20' astern. (B.2) (D.S. 545).

1652. 60.09 N., 10.29 W., unknown ship made S.S.S.S. signal. (B.1) (D.S. 545).

2326. Possibly 60° N., 9° W., position indefinite. (A.1) (D.S. 545).

1837. S.W. of Ireland, no fix, very indefinite (A.1) (D.S. 545).

2354. 54° - 56° N., 15° - 20° W., position indefinite (A.1.) Italian. (D.S. 545).

1518. By D/F at 1518 B.S.T. U/Boat in area 60 miles radius of 50° N. 15° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1711/2.).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

German

One 60° 04' N. 11° 12' W. 1035/2.
One in same area.
One N.W. Hebrides.
One N.W. Bloody Foreland.
One 30 miles of 56° N. 15° W.
One 54° 20' N. 14° 50' W. 1130/1.
Three Ireland - Brest.
Possibly one 58° 22' N. 33° 21' W. 0730/1.
6 or 7 more in N.W. Approaches positions cannot be estimated.

Italian

One 48° N. 15° W. 2139/1 en route Bordeaux.
Two in N.W. Approaches.
One near Madeira 24th may be en route Freetown area.
One S.W. Freetown.
(D.D.I.C. 1347/2, F.O.S., 1522/2, to TAKU).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1035. Am over enemy submarine in position 60.04 N., 11.12 W. "fix" within half an hour of 0800. Have attacked enemy with bombs dive and estimate nil hits. Enemy submarine was on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 285 estimated speed ten knots. (A/C "U" 1035/2, to Wick).
One Hudson leaving Wick as soon as possible to hunt S/M reported by A/C in 60° 04 N. 11° 12 W. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1154/2).

2330/1 by S.S. MERCHANT. S.S. MERCHANT Centre ship of line reports just missed ramming U-Boat at 2330/1 but fired 60 machine gun bullets into conning tower, and hull. At this time escort was searching near CADILLAC 4 miles astern. Convoy on E.S. diagram No. 3 since 2100/1. (MALCOLM, 1307/2, to C.in C. W.A.).
Postion 60.16 N., 12.07 W., 300' Butt of Lewis 210' (D.S. 545).

1440. 1 submarine bearing 230° distance 2 miles course 270° my position 199 Munken Rock (Faeroes) 120.
(VASCAMA, 1440/2, to Scapa W/T)
Position 59.29 N., 8.05 W., 282° N. Rona 70'
VASCAMA - A/S.T. (D.S. 545).
Position 199 M K (2 corrupt groups) opened fire on submarine on surface. Submarine submerged. Motor ship in vicinity apparently stopped. (VASCAMA 1442/2 to S.O. Trawlers N.P.).
Am accompanying motor ship. Submarine probably hunting her, my p. c. and s. 199 M K N 128 152° 10 knots auxiliary patrol in company. (? Magneto) contact spring of alternator broken by gunfire concussion beyond repair. (VASCAMA, 1535/2, to S.O. Trawlers, N.P.). (NOTE. MKN = Munken Rock (Faeroes)).
VASCAMA's 1442/2 - 1 Sunderland from Sullom Voe taking off 1715 E.T.A. position 59° 28' N. 08° 08' W. about 1900 to carry out hunt. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1640/2).
My position Cape Wrath 92 no further sign of S/M. Am escorting Dutch PRINS MAURITS towards Cape Wrath. Aeroplane patrolling overhead. Request instructions. (VASCAMA, 1715/2, to S.O.T., N.P.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3. 3. 1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Search for enemy merchant vessels off Brest.

During a special P.R.U. sortie to Brest aircraft reported one large merchant vessel escorted by 6 smaller ships (later shown by photographs to be one 500 ft. tanker and 6 smaller merchant vessels) about 20 miles west of Ushant steering 295° at 1700 today. Aircraft search was impracticable and in the belief that the enemy might be intending to lay mines between Land's End and the Scilly Is. orders were given to D.5, who was at sea carrying out exercises with JUPITER, JACKAL, KELLY, KELVIN, KASHMIR, and KIPLING to proceed to a line Ushant - Land's End and sweep northwards to intercept the enemy if they returned to Brest. RIPLEY was to establish an East and West patrol 10 miles either side of position 49° 48' N. 5° 56' W. Fighter protection was arranged for tomorrow morning. JERSEY was unable to sail with D.5 owing to a damaged rudder.

MALCOLM, BURNHAM, BRIGHTON damaged.

MALCOLM returned to harbour today with all her boats lost or stove in, mainmast carried away and other damage from heavy weather. Further damage was sustained during last night when BURNHAM sheered alongside. BURNHAM also lost all her boats, starboard anchor and all E.R. ventilating cowls; searchlight stand and boat skids were wrecked and port forecastle door stove in. She suffered further damage in collision with MALCOLM.
BRIGHTON is returning with 19 survivors of BALTISTAN (torpedoed 27/2 west of Ireland), with her forward compartments flooded.

British Air Activity.

41 Aircraft of Bomber Command attacked the HIPPER cruiser at Brest last night. Bomber Command consider the cruiser was hit.
Six Blenheims attacked targets at Rotterdam, Calais and Ijmuiden.
All the normal patrols were flown today and the Norwegian coast was searched from Trondheim to Bergen. A special R.C. was made to Trondheim; W/T intercepts indicated a possible move of naval units from Trondheim, probably southward.
A/S patrols were flown in the Minches, Rathlin Island to Minches, north of Londonderry, west of Ireland, and south-east of Iceland.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

Enemy air attacks in the Southern Irish Sea are increasing and the assembly of over 50 H.E.111's in the Brest area indicates the likelihood of further heavy attacks.
Shipping is to be routed through the most dangerous area (between line joining Holwick Light to Lundy and latitude of Skerries) during darkness. Slow, small or unimportant ships must continue to proceed independently; the remainder are to be routed to Milford Haven for onward routeing in the next O.B.M. convoy. The advisability of ships proceeding from ports north of the Irish Sea joining southbound convoys, in order to economise air escorts, is being considered. No.19 Group Coastal Command will assist as far as possible with air escorts, but No. 10 Group cannot at present afford any protection in this area.
S.S. FORT TOWNSVILLE was bombed and set on fire today about 14 miles west of St. David's Head and sank later. RIPLEY was attacked shortly afterwards, but no report of damage has been received.
A/P trawler COBBERS was bombed and sunk off Lowestoft today.
Slight damage by small H.E. bombs was caused to Manston Aerodrome landing ground today.

Mining.

Minelaying by a few aircraft last night is suspected off Falmouth.

Swansea, Tyne and Blyth were closed this evening, and restrictions were imposed in Firth of Forth. Port Talbot was closed at 2131 after being opened at 1841 to ships with I.C. engines.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Mining raid on Suez Canal.

Five or 6 enemy aircraft believed to be German raided the Canal from 1915 to 2030 today, dropping 10 or 12 mines 3 of which exploded on the bank and the remainder fell, unexploded, in the Canal. It had been hoped to start traffic between Bitter Lakes and Port Said tomorrow. M. A/S B. No. 3 (damaged by mine in Canal 28/2) was refloated today and towed to Suez.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3. 3. 41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Instructions for Convoy Escorts during Air Attacks.

C. in C. W.A. 0237/3, 1846/3.

Exchange of A and B. Destroyers.

My 1246/16/2 and R.A.(D) H.F. 1115/15/2. Destroyers of 4th escort group expected to be available for 7/3 are BOREAS and ACHATES. It would be much approciated if ACTIVE could be retained to assist in escort duty from 7th to 13th March approximately. (Capt. D. Greenock 1249/3, to C. in C. W.A.)

Flag of R.A.D. to TYNE.

Flag of R.A. (D) has been transferred to H.M.S. TYNE a.m. today. (R.A.D. 1349/3.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/3. (D.C. 1155/3) At 2330/3. (D.C. 2334/3.)

Movements.

PETUNIA.

My 1801/2. Approved to proceed to Reykjavik. (C. in C. W.A. 0235/3, to PETUNIA.)

UNDAUNTED.

UNDAUNTED escorted by GLEANER leaves Bell Rock 0930 and proceeds to 060° May Island 7 by 1130 to exercise in the vicinity with GLEANER and Trawlers until 1600, when she proceeds to Methil. (C. in C. Rosyth 0304/3.)

5th D.F.

Request you will sail 5th D.F. P.M. to-day for exercises off Dartmouth tomorrow, using them to cover shipping on passage if required.(C. in C. Plymouth 1014/3, to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/REPULSE.....

MOST SECRET.

3. 3. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

REPULSE. Departure at 1000/3, REPULSE, NAPIER, ZULU, and BOADICEA. (C. in C. Rosyth 1030/3, and 1114/3.)

RESOLUTION. Arrived escorted by KELVIN, KASHMIR, KIPLING, JACKAL, JERSEY, JUPITER, TYNEDALE, CLEVELAND. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1130/3.)

SUNFISH
URGE. SUNFISH and URGE are to leave their patrol position after dark on 5th and are to proceed down coast diving by day as far as Stadtlandet. Thence returning to base as ordered by Captain (S). (F.O.S.1213/3.)

Northern
Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. 5 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1407/3.)

UNBEATEN. My 0940/2. Amend route as follows. (S.S. 1215/3, to C. in C. Plymouth.)

S/M's. Positions at 0800/4 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1749/3.). Departures QUORN, WHITSHED and SPEEDY at 1835. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1841/3.)

O.21.
O.23. Convoy H.G.54 from Southward and ARAWA with two large merchant ships from Northward (? may) pass in the vicinity of Netherlands S/M O 21 and Netherlands S/M O 23 during tonight 3rd to 4th. (C. in C. W.A. 1853/3.)

Orders to
URGE. Admiralty 2157. This a repetition of A.M. 1954/3 to submarines on patrol. Re possible movement of enemy unit from Trondjhem. Do not leave patrol line ordered in Capt.(S) 9 number 9 P.O. 41 on this account. (P.O.(S) 2204/3, to URGE.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation N.C. — Operation N.C. will be carried out, zero hour 0045/4. (V.A. Dover 1421/3).

P.Y.A. — Operation P.Y.A. tonight. Two Motor launches eastward of Channel between 54 F and 56 buoy. (C.in C. Nore 1717/3 to VICEROY, etc.).

Interception of Enemy M/V. — Sailed JUPITER, JACKAL, KELLY, KELVIN, KASHMIRE, KIPLING. JERSEY defective. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1903/3).
Proceed to Westward at best speed. Orders follow. (C.in C. Plymouth 1914/3 to D.5.).
Proceed at best speed towards 49° 20' N. 8° 40' W. Orders follow. (C.in C. Plymouth 1952/3 to RIPLEY).
My 1914 and 1952. Aircraft report one large merchant vessel escorted by six smaller ships about 20 miles West of Ushant steering 295° at 1700.
A.S.V. fitted aircraft is searching. (C.in C. Plymouth 2014/3 to D.5., RIPLEY).
My 2014. Aircraft search impracticable. Possible enemy may be intending to lay mines between Land's End and Scilly Isles. RIPLEY is to establish an east and west patrol 10 miles either side of position 049° 48' N. 005° 56' W.
5th D.F. to proceed to line Ushant - Land's End and sweep northwards with object of intercepting enemy if he returns to Brest. (C.in C. Plymouth 2224/3 to D.5., RIPLEY)
My 2224. Fighter protection will be arranged as follows. (C.in C. Plymouth 2234/3 to D.5., RIPLEY).

See British Air Activity.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation N.C. — Operation N.C. will be carried out, zero hour 0045/4. (V.A. Dover 1421/3).

P.Y.A. — Operation P.Y.A. tonight. Two Motor launches eastward of Channel between 54 F and 55 buoy. (C.in C. Nore 1717/3 to VICEROY, etc.).

Interception of Enemy M/V. — Sailed JUPITER, JACKAL, KELLY, KELVIN, KASHMIRE, KIPLING. JERSEY defective. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1903/3).
Proceed to Westward at best speed. Orders follow. (C.in C. Plymouth 1914/3 to D.5.).
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My 2224. Fighter protection will be arranged as follows. (C.in C. Plymouth 2234/3 to D.5., RIPLEY).
See British Air Activity.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

On 2/3 one Blenheim carried out a weather reconnaissance and attacked List seaplane base from 100 ft., bombs being seen to fall in the centre of the target area. This aircraft also attacked a convoy of seven merchant vessels of 2/4,000 tons moving North in 54° 50' N. 7° 20' E., but results were not observed.
(H.Q.B.C. 0020/3).

Escorts. Expect escort by Whitley A/C from 0230 till 0830, then by Ansons till 1615, then Hudson till dusk. My 1942/2 is cancelled.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0208/3 to AMBUSCADE).

Patrols. Air Patrols 3/3. TROST STAB Recco Trondheim. (C.in C. Rosyth 0738/3).
Patrols Trost and Stab nothing sighted in extreme visibility. Trondheim reconnaissance not completed as no cloud cover.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1504/3).
Patrols ST 2 at 0900 and STI at 1430 for 4/3.
(N.A. Station, Stornoway 1630/3).

Portsmouth. Three important Naval Units are now berthed in Portsmouth Dockyard for repair and refit.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1213/3 to H.Q.F.C.).

Brest.
Rotterdam.
Calais.
Ijmuiden. Night 2/3 March. The HIPPER class cruiser at Brest was attacked with S.M.P. Bombs by 41 aircraft. Details of hits claimed.
Six Blenheims attacked docks and oil storage at Rotterdam and docks at Calais and Ijmuiden. At Rotterdam bursts were seen across the docks and red fire started amongst high buildings. (H.Q.B.C. 1542/3).

Search for m.v's. PL/OS/3/3. One Hudson fitted with S E to take off immediately to carry out search for enemy M.V's reported by Spitfire in Form Orange (PR) STE/4/3/3. Aircraft to search from 48° 34' N. 6° W. to following positions. Force to be attacked and reported. No own sea forces in area.
(Plymouth 2004/3 to St. Eval).

/ Fighter Protection for D.5. ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Fighter Protection for D.5.

My 2224. Fighter protection will be arranged on the assumption that D5 will pass through 180° Wolf Rock 10 miles at 0800/4 on passage to exercise area. RIPLEY proceeds execution of previous orders at 0730/4. Code word for D5 will be RECRUIT.
(C.in C. Plymouth 2234/3 to D.5., RIPLEY).

Enemy Air Activity.

ROTULA bombed 1/3.

GOLIATH reports wreck of ROTULA with stern on bottom and bows visible in approx. 52° 24' N. 05° 24' W.
Intend sending A/P trawler ARMANA to endeavour to sink wreck tomorrow.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0008/3).
In position 052° 23' N. 005° 28' W. sank burning derelict by gunfire. Identity not established.
(COSSACK 1215/3).
My 0008/3. ARMANA reports she has sunk wreck. Oil still blazing. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1450/3.).

ATHELTEMPLAR (Bombed 1/3)

Anchored in Methil Roads with ATHELTEMPLAR and tug. (SPEEDWELL 0847/3.).
S.S. ATHELTEMPLAR arrived Methil in tow of tug WATERMEYER 0845 today with skeleton crew from SPEEDWELL on board. 16 survivors landed at Methil, will leave for Leith at noon in tow of WATERMEYER and Naval Control tug CERVIA.
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1110/3).

ARIEL (Attacked 2/3)

My 1111/2 and 1512/2 ARIEL definitely claims following damage E.A. Rear Gunner of J.U.88 killed and damage to machine. A good burst from twin Lewis caught cockpit of 2nd D.O.17 head on. A small strut fell from aircraft on to ARIEL's Deck. Captain's report states that the cool and steady fire maintained by ARIEL's Lewis Gunner was probably responsible for ineffective bomb aiming.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 0959/3).

Convoy W.N.91
(Bombed 1/3)
PENNINGTON COURT .....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Convoy W.N. 91. (Bombed 1/3) PENNINGTON COURT. 2 Ships Kites carried away.

S/S PENNINGTON COURT in W.N. 91 arrived Methil Ship is damaged above water but in no need of assistance. No casualties. (N.C.I.C. Methil 1004/3).
Two ships in W.N. 91 report having their kites carried away by attacking aeroplanes. Report by letter follows. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1141/3).

EMPIRE SIMBA. (Bombed 1/3).

Following from A/S Trawler HUDDERSFIELD TOWN begins:- Position 53° 01' N. 004° 58' W. escorting Liverpool EMPIRE SIMBA in tow of EMPIRE HENCHMAN and GOLIATH. Engine and boiler room flooded. 1120/3 ends. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1232/3).

MELMORE HEAD. (Bombed 26/2)

Aircraft report MELMOREHEAD in 054° 25' N. 10° W. at 1030/3. (C. in C. W.A. 1246/3 to NORTHERN SPRAY, KINGCUP).
My 1246/3. This position of MELMORE HEAD is confirmed by second aircraft. (C. in C. W.A. 1722/3).
Your 1413/3. Unable to find MELMORE HEAD in position. Request instructions. Have now 3½ days bunker. (MASTADONTE 2200/3 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Provided MELMORE HEAD is in tow and escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY or KINGCUP and your assistance is no longer required return to Londonderry to fuel. When completed join S.L. 65. (C. in C. W.A. 2346/3 to MANSFIELD).

PORT TOWNSVILLE bombed.

(British, 8661 Tons) 51° 46' N. 5° 46' W. PORT TOWNSVILLE two aircraft. (PORT TOWNSVILLE 1250/3).
AAAA. 51° 57 N. 5° 43' W. PORT TOWNVILLE bombed. Note corrected position. (PORT TOWNSVILLE 1256/3).
LA MOQUEUSE reports two ships bombed, one of them on fire approx. 300° St. Davids Head 15 miles. Tug ABEILLE 21 proceeding to them and rescue tug SEINE will be ordered to assist on arrival off St. Annes at about 1830. LA MOQUEUSE has survivors and wounded on board. She has been ordered to remain by vessels. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1801/3).
My 1801. Ship on fire is PORT TOWNSVILLE. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1924/3).

/LA MOQUEUSE.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

PORT TOWNSVILLE bombed. (contd).	LA MOQUEUSE returned Milford Haven with survivors of PORT TOWNSVILLE. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2247/3). My 1801 and 1932/3 PORT TOWNSVILLE is only ship bombed. Cancel reference to two ships. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2252/3). PORT TOWNSVILLE bombed and machine-gunned at 1350/3 in 52° 5' N. 5° 24' W. Ship set on fire amidships. Abandoned. 2 Passengers killed, 2 injured. 3rd officer shot through ankle. 67 crew landed and 9 passengers including casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2357/3).
Off Wick.	One enemy aircraft shadowing distance 1 mile in 58° 24' N. 2° 30' W. course 330, speed 8 knots. (S.O. 5th M/S F. 1311/3).
RIPLEY.	In 52° 10' N. 5° 47' W. RIPLEY attacked at 1342/3. (Seaforth Radio, Recd. 1449/3).
COBBERS sunk.	(A/P Trawler) Sunk by enemy aircraft about noon to-day near A buoy. Four survivors and nine bodies including Skipper landed Lowestoft. Two missing. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1625/3).
BLANKHOLM. SURINAME. (Bombed 26/2).	Following two ships ex convoy O B 290 arrived at Ponta Delgada 3/3 for repairs to damage sustained in bomb attack. (N.O.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1637/3).
LEEDS CITY (Bombed 26/2).	LEEDS CITY was reported by aircraft in 54° 28' N. 11° 06' W. at 0750 today and by another aircraft in 54° 15' N. 11° 22' W. at 0948. Continue search. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1734/3 to SUPERMAN).
Convoy F.N. Odd.	Convoy PILOT is being shadowed by one enemy aircraft bearing 018° height 6000 ft. from 52° 16' N. 1° 57' E. (VICEROY 1902/3).
Convoy PADDLE.	Fighters have left for convoy PADDLE. (Rosyth 1922/3).
Manston bombed.	At 1710 enemy aircraft dropped 14 H.E. bombs near Manston aerodrome. Apparently objectives Manston Aerodrome landing ground. No damage to buildings and no R.A.F. casualties. (N.O.I. Ramsgate 2143/3).

MOST SECRET.

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3.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Off Tintagel.	In 050° 42' 30" N. 004° 58' 30 " W. explosion occurred consistent acoustic mine. No apparent damage. (COSSACK 0731/3). Your 0731/3 was any column of water seen if so what height. (C. in C. Plymouth 1016/3 to COSSACK)
S.N.4. and Rona/Faroes Minefield.	C. in C. H.F. 1045/2. Concur this field should be laid at an early date. Suggest further that, to catch submarines which pass in deep water to the Southward of S.N. four, consideration be given to the laying of additional field in the North Rona - Faroes mine field as follows. (R.A.M.L. 0935/3). Your 1045/2. Concur R.A.(M) is requested to arrange accordingly. (A.C.N.S.H. 1142/3 to C. in C. H.F). Adty 1142/3 and C. in C. H.F. 1524/25/2. Propose to sail with four minelayers for S.N. four at 1130/9 and lay p.m./10. (positio (R.A.M.L. 1902/3).
Sweep in Harwich Area.	Intend sailing six fleet minesweepers S. O. SELKIRK, at 0830 tomorrow to carry out sweep of 202 Q Z S. Details. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1026/3).
Near Smalls.	S.S. ATURNUS (Dutch) for Barry Docks reports floating mine at 1015/2. 52° N. 5° 50' W. near Smalls. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1035/3).
ZME. 21.	Intend leaving Milford Haven 1700 to-day for operation Z.M.E. 21 to lay at 0001/4 returning on completion about 0520/4. (PLOVER 1057/3).
Liverpool. Precautions in Moelfre Bay.	Reference A.M. 2355/25/12, Q Z Y 182 and A.M. 1240/26/2. Anchorage is now permitted in an area in Moelfre Bay as follows. Approach to and departure from area must be as follows. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1702/3).

/Port.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Port Talbot. Swansea.	My 1150/28. Ships fitted with I.C. Engines may now enter and leave Port Talbot. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1841/3). On account of suspected minelaying no ships are to enter or leave Swansea or Port Talbot until further orders. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2131/3).
Tyne.	Port of Tyne closed owing to enemy minelaying (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2045/3).
Blyth.	Port of Blyth closed due to enemy minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 2128/3)
Firth of Forth.	Following is closed due to probable enemy minelaying 175 QZS No. 1 reflector buoy to east Inchkeith Gate. (C. in C. Rosyth 2212/3)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Vessel.	One unknown vessel reported by RDF 146° St. Albans Head 15 at 0245 course east. (Portsmouth W/T 0300/3).
Brest.	Air reconnaissance A.M. today showed HIPPER still in dock at Brest. (D.D.I.C. 0945/3). At 2130/2, two Ships about 9000 Tons in Rade Abri, one stationary and one moving slowly West (H.Q.B.C. 1542/3).
Possible movement from Trondheim.	W.T.I. indicates a possible movement of naval units from Trondheim probably southwards. (D.D.I.C. 1954/3).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary..

3.3.1941.
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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

General.

Irish Sea, Routes.

Air attacks on shipping in Southern Irish sea are increasing. Most dangerous area is considered to be between line joining Holwick Light to Lundy and latitude of Skerries. Shipping is to be routed as follows:
(A) independently routed ships with sufficient speed to be sailed so as to pass through dangerous area in dark.
(B) Slow, small or unimportant ships must continue to proceed independently.
(C) remaining ships to be routed to Milford Haven for onward routeing in next O.B.M. convoy. (C. in C. Plymouth 1850/3 to N.C.S.O' etc).

Economising Air Escorts.

My 1850/3. Assembly of 52 H.E. 111's in Brest area and recent air attacks on ships in southern Irish sea indicate likelihood of further heavy attacks there. 10 Group cannot at present afford any protection in this area. 19 Group will assist us as far as possible with air escort. Evident that ships must proceed in convoys or Groups to economize in air escorts. Request you consider advisability of ships proceeding from ports in your command joining southbound convoys, if necessary calling at Holyhead to facilitate junction. (C. in C. Plymouth 1856/3 to C. in C.W.A).

Bofors Guns in M.V's.

Bofors guns now being mounted in ocean-going merchant ships. Ammunition used is self destroying at 2500 to 3500 yards. Proposed that present orders regarding opening of fire by merchant ships on aircraft should stand, result briefly being that the master opens fire on any aircraft not recognised as friendly which approaches within 1500 yards. Anticipated that first ships to mount these guns will be proceeding to sea during the next few days. (D.T.D. 1940/3 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (contd).

Coastal Convoys.

6. M.V's.	"Range", Escort. E.T.A. (C. in C. Rosyth 0108/3). Plymouth
3. M.V's	Following being escorted by A/C (C. in C. Rosyth 0240/3).
3. M.V's.	"Obstacle", 0305/3, escort (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 0317/3).
E.N. 79.	E.T.A. Loch Ewe section. (HUGH WALPOLE, 0830/3).
F.S. 25.	42 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0937/3) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1625/3) List to London (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1648/3).
W.N. 92.	Arrived 0900 (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1002/3).
W.N. 93.	List (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1013/3).
F.N. 23.	3/3, 23 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1052/3) List(1236/3) 1 ship sailed (N.C.S.O. Harwich, 1521/3) ~~List 1603~~ Ships joining (N.C.S.O. Humber 1706/3).
F.N. 22.	List (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1055/3) Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1232/3) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1716/3).
5 M.V's.	N.C.S.O. Dartmouth's 2248/2. Additional escorts (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1056/3) "Range", 5 M.V's sailed (N.C.S.O. 1929/3).
E.N. 80.	0800/3, escorts, 24 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1109/3) List (1112/3)
E.N. 78.	1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1210/3).

/F.N. 16.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.N. 16. F.N. 18.	Arrivals (N.C.S.O. Methil 1220/3).
E.N.U. 79.	1200/3. Unescorted, 3 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1220/3) List (1533/3).
F.N. 21.	Arrived 1345/3. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1418/3). Tyne ship arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1514/3).
W.N. 93 (O)	(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1430/3) Sailed 1445/3, escort, 1 ship (N.C.S.O. Oban 1545/3).
C.E. 27.	Escorts (C. in C. Portsmouth 1447/3 amended 1503/4).
F.S. 26.	Sailed 1400/3, 5 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 1535/3) 2 ships from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1708 /3) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1717/3) Ships from Tyne & Humber (C. in C. Rosyth, 2200/3) 2 ships only from Blyth (closed) (C. in C. Rosyth 2244/3).
11 M.V's.	Sailing 1730/4. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1606/3, 1836/3).
F.N. and F.S.	Amending 1650/21/2. (C. in C. Rosyth 1705/3) Escorts (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2316/3, amending his 1152/2)
F.S. 21.	My 1321/28, YEWTREE now arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1709/3).
E.N. 70 U.	Arrived 4 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1716/3).
W.N.U. 93.	1430/4, unescorted, 9 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1916/3).

/E.N.U. 80.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys. (contd).

E.N.U. 80.	2100/4, unescorted 7 ships 5 for Oban 2 for Belfast (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 2003/3, amended 1205/4).
E.N. 81.	VALOROUS additional A/A escort (C. in C. Rosyth 2225/3) GLEANER additional A/A escort (C. in C. Rosyth 2250/3).
F.S. 27	Sailed 2300/3, 18 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 2351/3).

Ocean Convoys.

H.X. 109	1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0936/3) Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1001/3) 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1648/3) arrivals (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1714/3 2007/3).
H.X. 110	When clear report p.c. & s. (C. in C. W.A. 1001/3 to RAMILLIES).
O.G. 55.	1 A/A sloop to escort. (C. in C. W.A. 1014/3).
O.B.M. 294	1945/4, LEEDS UNITED (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 1030/3).
B.H.X. 113	Draft, corrections (Bermuda 1229/3).
H.G. 54.	Sailing telegram as amended by Admty (D.T.D. 1336/3).
S.C. 23	41 hours late. (ASCANIA 1400Z/3) Amending 1938/1 (D.T.D. 1711/3).
O.B.C. 294	0130/6, 8 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1405/3).
H.G. 55.	Left, escort SCARBOROUGH, PANDORA, etc. (S.O.I. Gib, 1432/3).

/O.B.O. 293.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Ocean Convoys. (contd).

O.B.O. 293.	0730/4 5 ships, escort (N.C.S.O Oban 1530/3).
O.B. 293	Sailed WOLVERINE escort (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1550/3) Sailed 1550/3, 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1618/3) List (1619/3)
S.L. 65.) S.L.S. 65.)	Final destinations (D.T.D. 1624/3, 1625/3, 1626/3.
H.X. 113	Destinations (D.T.D. 1730/3).
O.B. 291	Estimated time of passing S.L. 65 and S.L.S. 65 (C. in C. W.A. 1755/3).
S.C. 22	2 arrivals (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1815/3).
O.B.U. 293	1040/5, unescorted, 4 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 2005/3) Cancel my 2005/3 (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1203/4).
H.X. 110	2 ships to join (D.T.D. 2256/3 to F.O. Iceland).

MILITARY CONVOYS.

STRATHMORE. REPULSE. FURIOUS. ALCANTARA.	Intend sailing S.S. STRATHMORE escorted by P.S. GARLAND at 1530/4 to r.v. with REPULSE, FURIOUS, ALCANTARA and escort from Clyde and Londonderry at 0800/5 in 225° Oversay 6 miles. Speed 12 knots. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0926/3). N.C.S.O. Mersey 1019/2. Form of this message is not understood. Assume para (e) refers to standard repeat standard route. Adty. 2247/28/2 part one. It is observed REPULSE convoy may pass O.G. 54 at a distance of under 10 miles a.m./7. (F.O.C.N.A. 1248/3).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

LADY LILLIAN.	(A/S Trawler) Cancel my 2338/2. LADY LILLIAN returned with asdic out of action. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0035/3).
MALCOLM.	Following damage sustained in heavy weather. Following damage sustained due to BURNHAM sheering alongside at 0117/3. (MALCOLM 0204/3).
BURNHAM.	Following damage sustained with MALCOLM. Following damage previously sustained in gale. My position 058° 27' N. 006° 04' W. proceeding to Londonderry, speed 9 knots. (BURNHAM 0403/3) (C. in C. W.A. 0822/3).
PERSIER.	(Belgian, 5382 Tons) Belgian Consul Reykjavik reports Belgian s.s. PERSIER stranded near Portland (Dyrholaey). Crew 44 so far 35 saved. (D.S.T.O. Iceland 1130/3).
MARTINET, sunk.	(Sailing Barge) MARINET reports striking a submerged object about one mile off-shore East of Bawdsey on Wednesday February 26th. Barge sank later and is lying in a position close to southward of Hook Whiting Buoy in 5 fathoms of water. Skipper could not give more definite position of object. (N.C.S.O. London 1245/3).
OURAGON.	Clyde arrival with condenser defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1335/3).
Unknown Vessel.	Automatic S.O.S. signal heard at 1413 G.M.T. strenghh 1/2 no bearing obtained 1413/3. (Cullercoats 1413/3).
MAURITZ.	Swedish, 1480 Tons) Arrived Stornoway ex convoy E.N. 79 bound for Oban. Damaged in collision. Being repaired at Stornoway and on completion will be sailed to Loch Ewe. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1531/3).

/JERSEY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.3.1941.
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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. (contd).

JERSEY. My 1903/3. Arrangements are being made to dock JERSEY to make good damage to rudder which it is expected will take 14 days. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2113/3).

BRIGHTON. My position 2230 051° 18' N. 012° W. Proceeding Plymouth with BROADWAY 20 knots. Keeping water down. (BRIGHTON 2235/3).

SLUGA. (Whaler) Has damaged her propeller necessitating dry docking and shipping of spare. Arrangements for docking will be made when dock is available. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2214/2).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

LEYLAND. — Departure to relieve ERIN escorting Cable ship MIRROR. (S.O.(I) Gib., 0900/3).

PANDORA. — At 1200/4. PANDORA with H.G.55. (F.O.C.N.A. 1528/3).

Air Operations.

U/Boat Bombed. — Suspected U/Boat bombed off Spartel. Nil result. Area covered 2°W., to 7° 30'W. (200 Group 1700/3).

French Convoy. — Gibraltar 3/3 0750 French Armed Trawler LA SETOISE escorting French ships FORT DE SEVILLO CHENONCEAUX AITREE ROUBAISEN all light passing East to West. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1705/3).

ASAKA MARU loading from French ships. — N.A.Lisbon 1721/23 and F.O. telegram 2058 /12. British Consul Bilbao reports ASAKA MARU, arrived Bilbao 25/2, has loaded heavy cases Ex French ship PRESIDENT LAVIT which arrived from Bayonne 24/2. Cases said to contain either coastal guns or steam power plant. French ship COURONNE arrived Bilbao 26/2 went alongside ASAKA MARU and proceeded to transhipment cargo. ASAKA MARU said to be awaiting arrival of further French ships from France with cargoes for transhipment. (N.A.Madrid, 1713/3 to D.N.I.)

BELGIQUE. — Your 1510/2. Sale of cargo completed, 100 tons barley excluded from sale. Ship should be sent Cadiz for discharge. As she may proceed thence to Huelva for cargo endeavour arrange transport of reserved barley from Cadiz to Gibraltar. (D.T.D. 2213/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Submarine reported off Cadiz 1/3.

N.A.Madrid 2300/3. See U/Boat Campaign.

South Atlantic.

SAVA.

Overdue shipping, my 1055/1 SAVA arrived Durban.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0949/3).

ROXBURGH CASTLE.

Overdue shipping cancel my 1040/2, ROXBURGH CASTLE arrived Capetown.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0951B/5).

Enemy Unit.

D/F bearings indicate enemy surface unit within 100 miles of 022° N., 040° W., at 1857Z/2.
(C.in C. S.A. 1037N/3).

CLAN OGILVY.

Submarine report, 1900Z/28.
(C.in C. S.A. 1046/3). See U/Boat Campaign

BRITISH CAPTAIN.

Your 1838/1. Tanker BRITISH CAPTAIN arrived Freetown 25/2 and sailed for U.K. in Convoy S.L.67 as reported in my 1258/1.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1049/3 to D. of S.T.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

Please pass following to C.in C. S.A. Your 2231/23/2. Having fuelled am (? proceeding) Deception Island. Whale Factory ships working in vicinity of (? 065°) South 054° West (? and are) continuing fishing until early April.

Ref: 1248Z/25/2 from N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands strongly urges catcher mentioned be kept.
(QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1114Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Falklands).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

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QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

Please pass following to C.in C. S.A. Your 2231/23/2. Having fuelled am (? proceeding) Deception Island. Whale Factory ships working in vicinity of (? 065°) South 054° West (? and are) continuing fishing until early April.

Ref: 1248Z/25/2 from N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands strongly urges catcher mentioned be kept.
(QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1114Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Falklands).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

BARONESA. — Route confirmed as follows. Am making investigation into cyphering of VESCA telegrams from here.
(Montevideo 1537/3 to Admty).

Duala. — From Governor Cameroons to General de Gaulle. (refers to closing Frontier with Spanish Guinea).
(N.C.S.O. Duala, 1555/3 to W.O).

SIAM II. collision. — Ex Danish M.V. SIAM II in collision in convoy damage bow and stem mostly above water line, will do necessary temporary repairs Freetown and advise expected delay later.
(M.S.R. Freetown, 1626/3, to M. of S.)

BIRMINGHAM, S.L.70. — Admty: 1649/2. BIRMINGHAM should leave Capetown about 23/3 for Freetown to escort S.L.70.
(C.in C. S.A. 2125N/3 to C.in C. E.I.)

Mediterranean.

Net for Suez Canal. — Your 1129/25/2. Net can be made in India. Ref: 1752/1 from Admty. do you wish investigation to be proceeded with.
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 0545/Z/3 to C.in C. Med.)

ROVER. — C.in C. Med., 1552/28, and 1646/2. Sail from Alexandria at 1200/4 for Port Said to arrive 1000/5. After docking and removal Fessenden sail for Suez as directed by S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area thence to join C.in C. China routed as ordered S.N.O. Red Sea and C.in C. E.I.
(Capt: S.1, 0911/3 to ROVER).

BARBETTE. — H.M.S. BARBETTE was officially transferred to Turkish flag today 3/3 in presence of Turkish Consul General from Alexandria.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1139/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Suez Canal.	Definite indication of exact position of all mines. is required. Experimenting with nets on surface and bottom, to indicate position of mines, not to catch mines. This is only method which can be put in hand at once and will give quick results. Estimate worst part of canal i.e. where bottom is rocky, can be netted by 1/5 and whole canal by 1/6. If experiments successful intend to put scheme in hand. Estimated cost. Requesting covering approval. (C.in C. Med., 1145/3 to Admty).
Orders for UPHOLDER.	My 1247/2. For March 4th read March 3rd. (Comdr. S.1, 1222/3 to UPHOLDER).
Funeral of King of Spain.	Admty. 1742/2 MALLORCA leaves Valencia 2000 /3 proceeding weather permitting direct to Cape Corso when she will receive routeing instructions from Italy. Speed 13 knots. (N.A.Madrid, 1233/3, to C.in C. Med., etc.)
G.C.B. for Admiral Cunningham.	In recognition of successful operations of the Mediterranean Fleet under your command the King has approved your promotion to G.C.B. Gazette notice 4/3. (Congratulations) (1st Lord, 1532/3 to C.in C. Med.)
B.N.17.	Convoy B.N.17 arrived Suez/2/3 and 3/3. less Greek ALFIOS. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1747/3).
Italian Claim Submarines Sunk.	Italian Communique 1200/3. "In the Mediterranean it is certain our torpedo boats have sunk two enemy S/Ms." No date or place given. (D.N.I. 1752/3 to C.in C. Med., Capt: S.1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Small U/Boat at Tobruk.

Information from most secret sources (B.3.) states Italian U/Boat with structures carrying human torpedoes (of type used in attack on Gibraltar) on deck is sunk in Tobruk Harbour. Italian divers have probably worked on submarine and torpedoes possibly removed.
(D.N.I. 1803/3 to C.in C. Med.)

Mining of Suez Canal.

Situation 1900/3 one mine known to be at km. 140.2 still unlocated. Intend starting traffic between Bitter Lakes and Port Said tomorrow after sweeping both acoustic and magnetic. M.A.S.B. No.3. refloated and towed to Suez.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, 1941/3.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

VILLE DE STRASBOURG.	(Intercepted by SHROPSHIRE 2/3). See French Merchant ships.
W.S.5.B.X.	Bombay 3/3 arrivals 0345Z INDUS 0525Z CAPETOWN, ENTERPRISE 0089 with W.S.5.B.X. (S.O.(I) Bombay 0526Z/3.
Disguised Freighters.	Admty. 2116/2. I can usefully employ these ships in Red Sea to augment patrols for interception of escaping merchant ships from Massowa and Assab and for co-operation with Army on Eritrean Coast. My 1240/16 refers. (C.in C. E.I. 0602Z/3 to Admty).
LEANDER CANBERRA, search for raider.	My 1534/1 para.2 and my 1958/1. Commencing dawn/4 LEANDER and CANBERRA are to carry out search of area enclosed by latitudes 007° S., and 012° S. and longitude 059° 30' and 062° 30' as ordered by LEANDER. This area is to be searched as fully as possible launching aircraft during daylight hours 4th and 5th and 6th. During night ships should stand off from banks and reduce speed to save fuel. Ships are to leave the area so as to arrive Seychelles p.m./7 for fuel. (C.in C. E.I. 0744Z/3 to Force V).
KIONGA.	C.in C. E.I. 1030/3. See Italian Merchant Ships.
B.M.4. B.M.5. 2. M.T.Ships.	My 1122/14 and my 1342/24. Dates for leaving Bombay. (C.in C. E.I. 1126Z/3 to F.O.C.R.I.N., C.in C. China, HECTOR, ANTENOR).
Armed Raider.	My 0810/1. Further description of raider is as follows: (C.in C. E.I. 1358Z/3 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Navigational Lights in East Indies Command.

My 1416/2 is being passed to you with reference to my 1522 7th Jan.

(2) Request adjacent station will conform.
(C.in C. E.I. 1412Z/3 to Adjacent Stations).

Italian Prizes.

Your 1148/26. and 1202Z/2 and Admty 1328/2. No objection to crew ex-French S.S. COMMISSAIRE REMAL being employed to man an Italian prize. Red ensign should of course be flown.
(D.O.D.(F) 1738/3 to C.in C. E.I.)

Submarine Sunk by R.A.F. 1/3.

C.in C. E.I. 1748/3. See U/Boat Campaign.

Air Operations.

Daily Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 3/3. Fighter abortive due weather and all other operations abandoned.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1804/3 to Air Ministry).

U.S.Convoy.

A.C.N.B. 0538/1. Request your remarks, in respect to the passage up the Red Sea and handling these ships at Suez, on assumption. (a) Convoy leaves Sydney late March. (b) Substituting ISLE de FRANCE for ACQUITANIA and omitting NIEUW AMSTERDAM.
(D.O.D.(F) 2341/3 to C.in C. E.I., C.in C Med.)

China.

MICHAEL LIVANOS, ELISAVET.

Greek ships, due 28/2 and 26/2 from Nagasaki and Yokohama respectively not arrived Singapore.
(S.O.(I) Singapore, 0711Z/3 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Contd.)

FERNGLEN
BONNEVILLE.

Have you news of Norwegian Ships FERNGLEN, BONNEVILLE, Osaka?
(D.T.D. 1341/3 to Consul-Gen: Kobe).

America and West Indies.

LETITIA

Your 0557/1. Details of damage.
(R.A.3.B.S. 0937/3 to Admty).

H.X.113.

Intend sailing ALAUNIA FENNEL and BITTERSWEET as ocean escorts to H.X.113 ALAUNIA has been ordered to leave Convoy in 025° W., and proceed Hvalejordur reporting expected time of arrival when well clear of Convoy. Corvettes ordered to proceed Clyde with their section of Convoy.
(R.A.3. 1059/3).

Trinidad
Loop
Defence.

Reply to Admty. 1655/1.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1106/3).

RONIN.

Have you received cancellation of Admty. 1118/1/2. (re facilities to be afforded Panamanian RONIN at Dominion or Colonial port).
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1123/3 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). Reply. No.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2120/3).

B.H.X.113.

Departure. Ocean Escort PRINCE DAVID returning to Bermuda by 12/33.
(Cdre i/c Bermuda, 1243/3 to Admty etc.)

CLAVELLA
PAGASITIKOS.

Dutch CLAVELLA returned from B.H.X.110 for engine repairs, Greek PAGASITIKOS returned from S.C.23 upon receipt of raiders signal when not in contact with convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1326/3 to Admty, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd:)

ROSEVILLE.	Have you any news of Norwegian ship ROSEVILLE? (D.T.D. 1340/3 to Consul, Los Angeles).
VAN KINSBERGEN.	Leave Trinidad 5/3 and proceed to Curacao to carry out 14 day Gunnery Training. Report in due course date you will be ready to leave Curacao. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1002/3 to VAN KINSBERGEN)
PRINS WILLEM II. EMPIRE RAIN.	Ministry of shipping 1130/5/2. Dutch PRINS-WILLEM II not arrived. My 1702/2 British ship EMPIRE RAIN arrived Kingston Jamaica today. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 2026/3, 2036/3.
Convoys.	Halifax 3/3 convoy arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 2320/3 to Fairmiss).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

A.M.C's.

Your 0539Z/26/2 (2 A.M.C's sailing from Australia early June. 11 knots suitable speed). First sentence as received refers to two A.M.C.'s. Is this correct? Your 1216/21/2 still not received.
(D.O.D.(F) 1642/3 to A.C.N.B.) Reply 0214/7.

New Zealand.

SUFFOLK report.

Your 1308/28. (SUFFOLK reports intercepted on 600 metres could any British or Allied ship have been near the position).
Estimated distances of nearest vessels TARANAKI 800 miles NORFOLK 900, FRANK SEAMAN 800, PORT CAMPBELL 1300, ACADIA 1200.
(N.Z.N.B. 0418/3 to Admty).

MONOWAI
NOBDNES
KAGGERAK.

Departure Suva 0200Z/3 MONOWAI escorting NOBDNES and KAGGERAK. E.T.A. Nauru p.m.Z/8
(S.O.(I) Wellington, 0839Z/3 to Admty etc.)

MONOWAI
AWATEA.

Suva arrived MONOWAI escorting AWATEA.
(S.O.(I) Wellington, 1045Z/3 to Admty etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3. 3. 41.
(Monday)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

BRAKE. Tanker BRAKE reported to have sailed from Ferrol 2/3., destination unknown.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0537/?3. to N.A. Station) F.O.S., 1314/3 to OLYMPUS).

TANNENFELS. Had following cargo on board on leaving Kismayu.
(C.-in-C., E.I., 0724Z/3. to Admiralty).

LECH. Loaded German cargo steamer arrived 0630 today, details later.
(N.C.S.O., Rio de Janeiro, 0815/3. to Admiralty).
(Sol Montevideo 1241Z/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)
My 0815/3, Steamer's name LECH. Informed ship sailed from Bordeaux 1/2 and is fully loaded with cargo for Rio de Janeiro, including 3 aircraft in cases on deck.
(N.C.S.O., Rio de Janeiro, 0914/3).
(Sol Montevideo 1344Z/3. to R.A.S.A.D.)

SAVONA.
SPEZIA.
LIVORNO. 1/3 arrivals SAVONA, SPEZIA, LIVORNO.
2/3 departure LIVORNO for Marseilles.
(Valencia T.H.I.2230/3)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LELLO. 1384 tons (reported in D.S. of 7/2 believed sunk). No confirmation from F.O.C.N.A. or C.in C. Med. Known she left Genoa 18/1 and no further report received, though previously every movement reported of her progress from Genoa to Barcelona, Valencia, and Marseilles, and voyages were frequent. (D.S. 545).

SNIA AMBA. 2352 tons. Previously reported torpedoed about 4/11/40. Italian prisoners confirm ship sank outside Benghazi. (D.S.545).

LIGURIA 15354 tons) Both reported by prisoners sunk
SERENITAS. 5171 tons) at Tobruk. (D.S.545).

5 Transports. The Popolo d'Italia acknowledge sinking of 5 troop transports in Mediterranean between November, and February, according to a broadcast to U.S.A. on 28/2. (D.S.545).

KIONGA. My 0726/1. KIONGA is sunk in Kismayu. Was fitted as Minesweeper but not minelayer. (C.in C. E.I. 1030/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

VILLE DE STRASBOURG.

My 1808/2. Part one of 1144/3.
After boarding VILLE DE STRASBOURG in bad and deteriorating weather SHROPSHIRE reports master, officers and crew refuse to work ship to Durban, Master wishing to wireless circumstances to Madagascar. Ship bound for Dakar with 42 passengers including three Army Officers and few sick Reservists, (cargo). Have instructed SHROPSHIRE to explain to Master that his attitude renders ship liable to seizure under International Law and to make every effort short of using force, to induce master to work ship under armed guard to Durban or Simonstown and that master is not to signal Madagascar.
(C.in C. E.I. 1142/3 to Admty).
My 1144/3 part two. (3) If persuasion fails, undesirable for SHROPSHIRE to provide steaming party as she is already short of 65 men left at Durban sick.
If ship is to be sent in, intend to sail RANCHI from Durban 4/3 with as many extra hands for steaming party as N.O.I.C. Durban can provide, to relieve SHROPSHIRE so that her refit is not further delayed. (4) Request very early confirmation that, in spite of consequent interference with operational requirements, ship is to be taken in, in order to avoid precedent being created.
(C.in C. E.I., 1144Z/3 to Admty).
Captain VILLE DE STRASBOURG after further persuasion has agreed to proceed to Durban under my escort. Stipulating no armed guard which I agreed to as I intend escorting. My p.c. and s. are 026° 10'S., 047° 15'E, 255°, 9 knots.
(SHROPSHIRE, 1355Z/3 to C.in C. E.I.)

COURONNE)
PRESIDENT LAVIT)

At Bilbao.
(N.A. Madrid, 1713/3, see North Atlantic).
My 1144/3. SHROPSHIRE is being passed to you. (355/3) RANCHI with steaming party will leave Durban a.m.4/3 and relieve SHROPSHIRE as soon as possible.
(C.in C. E.I. 1744Z/3 to Admty).
Your 1142/3. Confirmed that ship is to be taken in.
(D.C.D.(F) 2233/3 to C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

ARIZONA. Report received that S.S. ARIZONA leaving Marseilles 4/3. for New York with transhipment at Martinique. Ship accepting cargo without navicert.
(D.D.I.C. 1842/3 to S.O.(I) Gib., C.in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BALTISTAN (torpedoed 27/2). (Description of damage. See Casualties). Have 19 survivors of S.S. BALTISTAN. (BRIGHTON, 0820/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

CADILLAC (torpedoed 1/3). My 0742/3 return through position 60° 20' N., 12° 18' W., where S.S. CADILLAC was torpedoed at 2301/1.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1121/3 to RESTIVE PRUDENT).
Request latest information of CADILLAC.
(SEAMAN 1155/3 to Admty).
(W.D. Note See F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1550/3).

Tactics Against U/Boats. In order to sight any U/Boat attacking from or escaping to rear of convoy, instructions given in Western Approaches C.I Section G, parts IX X XI and diagram 13 are to be modified forthwith as follows: (details 2 and 3).
(4) These ships should not act as rescue ships until chance of U/Boat still being present seems remote.
(C.in C. W.A. 1927/3 to W.A.Command Area).

Submarines Reported.

1900/28. Submarine reported from CLAN OGILVY in position 007° 18'N., 014° 26'W., 1900Z/28. Consider doubtful.
(C.in C. S.A. 1046/3 to Admty).

1025. My 1025/3 not to ASCANIA. Possible that a German U/Boat has reported Convoy H.X.110 or S.C.23 or ENCHANTRESS.
(D.D.I.C. 1103/3 to RAMILLIES, ASCANIA, ENCHANTRESS, H.Q.C.C.)

2027. It is probable you are being shadowed by enemy submarines.
(C.in C. W.A. 2027/3 to AMBUSCADE).

1000/1. off Cadiz. Vice Consul Heulva reports:- British ship EMPIRE STRAIT reports at 1000/1 between Cape Trafalgar and Cadiz ten miles off coast he heard horn blowing two long blasts first ahead then astern five minutes later

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

1000/1
off Cadiz.

later fog cleared away there was no vessel in sight. Master believed horn to have been blown by enemy a/m. Message ends.
(N.A.Madrid, 2300/3).

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.

GERMAN.

One 59° 40'N., - 60° 20'N. 9° W - 10° W.
One 59° 10'N., - 59° 40'N. 8° W - 9° W.
One 59° N., - 59° 30'N. 10° W. - 11° W.
One S.E. or E. of Rockall.
One S.W. of Rockall 56° N. - 56° 30'N., 15° W., 16° W.
One 54° N., - 55° N., 15° W. - 17° W.
One 30 miles of 52° 30'N., 16° W. 1117/3.
6 or 7 more in N.W.Approaches.
3 patrolling approaches to English Channel may now return to Lorient.

ITALIAN.

One 54° 30'N., 17° 30'W. 2354/2.
Two more in N.W.Approaches.
One S.W. of Freetown.
(D.D.I.C. 1408/3).

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine sunk by R.A.F. 1/3 in Red Sea.

My 2036/1. photograph confirms direct hit and subsequent disappearance of U/Boat and presence of two large patches of oil. Further investigation asked for. Have requested H.Q.M.E. to with-hold publication in press for present.
(C.in C. E.I. 1748/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation PYA.	M.L's 110 and 106 left Yarmouth at 1925 today to patrol to prevent minelaying by E/Boats.
Search for Enemy Merchant Vessels off Brest.	At 0106 today Captain D.5. and RIPLEY were informed that it was considered the enemy merchant vessels sighted off Ushant yesterday were standing out to sea before proceeding up Channel. Captain D.5. was ordered to intercept and RIPLEY to patrol as previously ordered. Captain D.5. returned to Plymouth this morning, without having sighted the enemy ships.
Operation "Claymore" (Attack on Lofoten Islands)	C.in C. Home Fleet reported this operation completed this evening. Fish Oil Plants were destroyed, nine merchant vessels totalling 18000 tons including a fish oil factory ship, one armed and one unarmed trawler were sunk, prisoners were taken and Norwegian volunteers embarked. Our forces suffered no damage or casualties. See Capt: (D) 6, 1804/5, 1821/5, 2025/5.

8

British Air Activity.

During the passage of Channel convoys through the Straits of Dover a small striking force is to be held in readiness to attack enemy gun positions should they open fire. The scattered dispositions of these guns does not warrant an attack being carried out unless the position of the particular battery which is firing is known.

/7 Aircraft.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

7 Aircraft of Bomber Command were despatched to attack the HIPPER cruiser at Brest last night. 6 Wellingtons attacked Boulogne Docks.

No Bomber Command operations were arranged for tonight, owing to unfavourable weather on the Continent.

Enemy Air Activity.

Trawler EAST COAST was damaged by air attack today near the Fastnet and was beached at Kinsale.

Cardiff was attacked last night by about 200 enemy aircraft. No serious damage was caused in the docks and there were no naval casualties.

Mining.

Operation Z.M.E.21.

PLOVER last night laid mines in St. George's Channel.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected from the Forth to the Wash and in the Bristol Channel. Two small vessels, RUTH and ANGLIAN COAST were slightly damaged by mines this evening off Liverpool. The port is closed during dark hours.

/ANONITY

MOST SECRET.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Contd.)

ANONITY (motor vessel 303 tons) sank following an explosion off Skegness Pier this morning. The Boston pilot cutter LYNDIS KITWOOD is reported badly damaged but was taken to Boston and placed on slip. Mines were detonated off Falmouth.

In the Firth of Forth, the alternative convoy anchorage, Aberlady Bay is closed on account of suspected enemy minelaying Firth of Forth is open subject to restrictions.

Cardiff was closed at 0007 today. Tyne and Blyth were opened this afternoon.

Mediterranean.

8

A force of 14 Blenheims escorted by 28 fighters was despatched today to attack 6 Italian warships bombarding the coast road near Valona. No direct hits were obtained. An engagement ensued with the fighter escort of the warships.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

COBURG and KETTY BROVIG sunk.

CANBERRA and LEANDER, who were yesterday ordered to search an area in the Indian Ocean sighted a supposed raider, accompanied by a trawler at 1205Z today in position 8° 40'S., 61° 25'E. CANBERRA opened fire at 18000 yards and by 1225Z both enemy vessels were on fire. The tanker was found to be ex Norwegian KETTY BROVIG which reported being attacked by a raider on 2/2 west of the Seychelles; she took scuttling action and was left in a sinking condition. The other vessel was found to be the German S.S. COBURG and had no guns; she sank at 1349Z.

MOST SECRET.

4. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

ACTIVE — Your 1249/3. ACTIVE is to join Home Fleet when BORREAS joins my Command. (C.-in-C., W.A. 0950/4).

S/M's for A/S Training. — Your 1208/3 passed to Admiralty. Fully appreciate importance of this training but commitment can only be met by taking a submarine away from A/S training. Admiralty has matter under consideration and will, I understand, issue a priority list giving the order in which the various demands for submarines to fulfil A/S and A.S.V. training and practice requirements should be met by the limited number of submarines available. Hope to discuss these points with you tomorrow. (F.O.S. 1041/4 to C.-in-C., W.A.)

MISTRAL — Your 1950/1. It is considered advisable to keep MISTRAL at six hours notice for active service until experience shows the time required to return from Gunnery firing area and disembark training classes. (D.O.D.(H) 1239/4 to CARDIFF).

Firing at Unseen Targets. — Your 0034/23/2 para. 2. Request you will indicate your requirements for discussion with Air Staff. (D.T.S.D.1637/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 1130/4 (D.C.1152/4) At 2330/4 (D.C. 2350/4).

Movements

WOLSEY VANITY — C.-in-C., Rosyth 0105/4 R/V with me off Dunnet Head at 0630/4. Intend to proceed by searched channel. (WOLSEY 0335/4 to VANITY).

/ OTUS

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Continued)

OTUS	Intend to sail OTUS from Portsmouth unescorted diving by day at 1700/5 via Needles Channel to R/L110° Berry Head 3 miles with an M.L. at 0830/6. (S.5 1102/4).
LONDON	C.-in-C., H.F. 1801/1. E.T.A. Kinnaird Head 1000/7. (C.-in-C., Nore 1130/4 to R.A.D.,H.F.)
PRINCE OF WALES	Your 1600/3. Approved subject to concurrence of C.-in-C., H.F. (Controller 1258/4 to PRINCE OF WALES).
REPULSE BOADICEA	Arrived REPULSE escorted by NAPIER and BOADICEA. Sailed BOADICEA in accordance with R.A.D.'s 0915/28. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1435/4).
Northern Patrol	Trawler lines tonight. 5 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1450/4).
S/M's	Positions at 0800/5 and Movements for the following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1642/4).
REVENGE	Your 1823/3. Programme approved. Essential to adhere to dates. 2. Ship will be required to sail from Clyde about (date) with ultimate destination Halifax. 3. Request you will therefore sail REVENGE for Clyde as soon as she is ready. 4. On arrival at Halifax REVENGE will rejoin Halifax escort force under orders of R.A. 3rd B.S. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1648/4 to C.-in-C., Portsmouth).

Operations

RIPLEY	Will be patrolling to south of Wolf Rock tonight. (C.-in-C., Plymouth 0052/4 to LORD HAILSHAM).

/Interception of Tanker and 6 M/V.'s.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Continued)

Interception of Tanker and 6 M/V's.

My 2224/3. Photograph shows that ships were one 500 feet tanker and 6 smaller Merchant Vessels.
2. Now consider that these were standing out to sea before proceeding up Channel.
3. Captain (D) 5 proceed to intercept. RIPLEY proceed in execution of previous orders. (C.-in-C., Plymouth 0106/4 to (D) 5).
My 0106. D.5 reports nothing sighted. (C.-in-C., Plymouth 1111/4).
Arrived 1320 JACKAL, JUPITER 1516 KASHMIR 1545 KELLY 1625 KELVIN, KIPLING. (C.in C., Plymouth 1704/4).

Q.A.

Operation Q.A. will be carried out tonight from 2030 to 2230. (C.-in-C.,Nore 1029/4).
My 1029. Operation Q.A. cancelled owing to weather. (C.-in-C., Nore 1737/4).

N.C.

Operation N.C. will be carried out, zero time 0130. (V.A., Dover 1436/4).
Harwich 4/3 departures M.T.B.'s 31, 22, 32 at 1837. (F.O.i/c Harwich 1843/4).

P.Y.A.

Departures M.L.'s 110 and 106 at 1925 to carry out operation P.Y.A. (N.O.i/c Yarmouth 1928/4).

CLAYMORE

Operation. CLAYMORE. Successfully completed. (C.-in-C., H.F. 2320/4).

British Air Activity

Fighter Protection

My 2111/28. Request Pocket from 0900-1600 today. (C.-in-C., Plymouth 0624/4).
My 1152/25, and H.Q.F.C. 1922/27 neither to you. Escorted group of M.V's leaves Falmouth P.M. 5/2 and will be in Channel 180 Q Z S from 1730/5 to 1930/5. Another escorted group arrives A.M./6 and will be in Channel between 0730/6 and 0930/6.
Request trial may be made of providing fighter patrol over Channel as long as possible during one or both of these periods and that cover may be provided during remainder of time. (C.-in-C.,Plymouth 1826/4 to A.O.C. 10 Group).

/TAKU.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity (Cont'd.)

TAKU

1 (one) Sunderland Aircraft may be expected about noon today. (C.in C., W.A. 0818/4 to TAKU, etc.)

Patrols.

Air Patrols today FAIR TROST STAB HERT (C.in C., Rosyth 0850/4).

Straits of Dover.

During passage of Channel convoys through Straits of Dover a small Striking Force is to be held in readiness to attack enemy gun positions should they open fire. The scattered disposition of these guns does not warrant an attack being carried out unless the position of the particular battery which is firing is known. (Chatham A.C.H.Q., 0914/4 to Detling).

Own A/c fired on.

Your 1507/27. Following report from F.O.i/c Yarmouth begins:
"Bofors Battery at Lowestoft opened fire at 1848 and one drifter in harbour followed withnshort burst of M.G. Fire was not opened by any guns at Yarmouth.
2. Aircraft was evidently off Lowestoft and not Yarmouth". Ends. (D.of L.D. 1233/4 to Air Ministry).

Escort for ARROW.

Expect escort 1 Anson aircraft from 1600 4th until dusk. (C.in C., Rosyth 1506/4 to ARROW).

STRATHMORE REPULSE FURIOUS ALCANTARA

My 2248/28 para. 1. Amend position B to read 55° 40' N., 8° 30' W. (D.C.D.(H) 1530/4 to H.Q.C.C., and H.Q.F.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

MELMORE HEAD (Bombed 26/2)

Your 2200/3. Endeavour to contact MELMAR HEAD reported by aircraft in 54° 37' N. 9° 32' W. at 1800/3. (F.O.i/c Greenock 0118/4 to MASTODONTE).

/ Your 0640.

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Cont'd).

MELMORE HEAD (Bombed 26/2)	Your 0640. Proceed to Loch Foyle with MELMORE HEAD who should be anchored unless considered necessary to beach. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1234/4 to THAMES).
PORT TOWNSVILLE (Bombed 3/3)	My 2247/3. At 0045/4 PORT TOWNSVILLE was in about 52° 6' N., 5° 23' W. Badly on fire and listing. A/P Trawler ARMANA and Tug ABEILLE 21 standing by. Rescue tug SEINE not yet joined. (F.O.i/c Milford Haven 0155/4). My 0155 and my 0200. A/P Trawler ARMANA reports PORT TOWNSVILLE sunk at 0225/4. Tugs are being recalled. Request my 0200 be cancelled. (F.O.i/c Milford Haven 0316/4
EMPIRE STEELHEAD	My 1522/27/2. Essential repairs will be completed P.M. 8th and vessel ready to proceed under own steam. Request destination be communicated and escort arranged. (F.O.i/c Invergordon 1159/4
Enemy A/c.	An enemy report was sent at 1152 by Stavanger to German aircraft probably on patrol. (D.D.I.C. 1217/4).
Convoy E.N. Even.	Air attack imminent. (Lyness 1220/4). Fighters have been despatched to the assistance of PADDLE. (Lyness 1225/4). Negative enemy air attack on Convoy PADDLE. (Lyness 1325/4). Fighters being sent to even numbered E N Convoy. (Lyness 1415/4).
KINGSTON HILL. (Bombed 22/2)	Salvage completed and ship ready for towing. Will only require short dry dock at a later stage. (N.O.i/c Aultbea 1225/4).
SIMALOER (Bombed 2/3)	My 1234/4. As soon as MELMORE HEAD can be safely left request you sail THAMES and KINGCUP to assist SIMALOER abandoned in 56° 55' N., 10° 18' W. at 0855/4. Tugs SCHELDE and MASTADONTE are proceeding to Londonderry and can be used to assist MELMORE HEAD. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1247/44). Cancel all previous instructions. KINGCUP and SCHELDE are to proceed forthwith to R/V at entrance of Loch Foyle and then proceed in company to assist s.s. SIMALOER. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1710/4). Cancel my 1247/4. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1720/4).

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity (Cont'd.)

Cardiff bombed.	Cardiff was subjected to air attacks between 2000/3 - 0100/4. About 200 A/c believed Heinkel 111's engaged. These attacked singly but in two separate waves. Very many incendiaries and a number of H.E.'s were used but few flares. Some fifty fires developed of which seven were large but all were under control by midnight. Much damage in centre of City and railway traffic interrupted. No serious damage in docks although traffic is delayed at Rumney Wharf due to an U.X.B. on the east side of East Dock and communications in docks received damage. Civilian casualties. No Naval casualties. (F.O.i/c Cardiff 1705/4).
Thames Estuary.	Pyrotechnics and flares observed in region of Thames Estuary on night of 3/4 March as follows. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1305/4).
EMPIRE SIMBA (Bombed 1/3)	EMPIRE SIMBA arrived and docked. (F.O.i/c Liverpool 1810/4).
LEEDS CITY (Bombed 26/2)	Position fix at 1925 15 miles 240° Tory Islands LEEDS CITY in tow of SUPERMAN MAN O'WAR Escort. Weather favourable. (MAN O'WAR 1945/4).
Cardiff.	Mining. On account of minelaying no ships are to enter or leave Cardiff until further orders. (F.O.i/c Cardiff 0007/4).
Z.M.E.21.	Operation Z M E 21 completed. (PLOVER 0540/4).
Firth of Forth.	Particulars. (PLOVER 1600/4.) Cancel my 2212/3. Between 02° 45' W. and the East Gate Inchkeith all traffic is to use the south side of Q Z S 175. The north side of QZS 175 between above positions remains closed. (C.in C., Rosyth 1042/4). Due to suspected enemy minelaying alternativ convoy anchorage Aberlady Bay (R.G.S.129) is closed. (C.in C., Rosyth 1244/4).
Thames Estuary.	My 2244/2/2. A.A. ships will be stationed in Thames Estuary from p.m./5 until further notice. Orders for engaging aircraft are as in your A257 of 6/2/41. (C.in C. Nore 1052/4 to H.Q.F.C.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Invergordon Minefield.	Control for Inner Controlled Minefield now completed and Minefield in operation. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1105/4).
ANONITY (Motor Vessel, 303 Tons) sunk BOSTON (Pilot Cutter) damaged.	Motor vessel reported sunk following an explosion 1-1/2 miles E.S.E. of Skegness Pier at 1028 today. Motor boat in attendance and lifeboat going to assistance. (F.O. Humber 1211/4) My 1211. Name of vessel sunk ANONITY. Boston Pilot Cutter badly damaged and in sinking condition. Pilot killed. (F.O. Humber 1530/4).
TEVIOT BANK.	Will load on 6/3 and will be in all respects ready for sea on completion of loading. (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham 1405/4).
Enemy Minefields off Norwegian Coast.	Your 1117/15/2 appears to cover Russian minefield laid off Petsamo prior to April 1940. Conflicting reports are, however, emanating from Oslo of German mines off Norwegian Coast. Request you will endeavour to clarify position particularly. (1) Whether new minefields have been laid or whether Oslo notices are re-issue of former information consequent upon resumption of traffic. (2) Actual part of Norwegian coast mined. (3) Whether safe water is within 3 miles of coast, or outside 3 miles. (D.D.I.C. 1550/4 to N.A. Stockholm).
Tyne	Port of Tyne open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1611/4).
Moelfre Bay.	Navigational precautions. (D.T.D. 1803/4).
Clyde Area. Fitting of Sweepers with S.A. Gear.	The intensity of minelaying attacks by enemy aircraft has recently increased. The approached to the Clyde have not yet been heavily mined, but, should this occur, the local S.A. Minesweeping forces are inadequate, no sweeper fitted with S.A. (A) Mark II being yet in operation.

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Clyde Area. Fitting of Sweepers with S.A. Gear. (contd).	Your six Oropesa Trawlers should be fitted in addition to ships named in your 1140/27. Four A frames have been supplied by D.N.C. and 2 more will be sent mid-March. The early fitting of sweepers with S.A. gear Mark II of utmost importance and local construction must be used to supplement supply of A frames and boxes, as has been done in other Commands. (A.C.N.S.H. 1814/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Falmouth.	Two Mines detonated by S.A. Gear today as follows. (3) One mine exploded spontaneously at 1758 in 50° - 08' N.Z. 05° - 01' 50"W. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1821/4).
Blyth.	Port now open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1830/4).
Liverpool.	Instructions for entering or leaving. (D.T.D. 1959/4).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

HIPPER
SEYDLITZ.

Following from Navy Department dated March 3rd stated to be reliable. HIPPER docking at Bremen to repair damage. SEYDLITZ recently completed.
(N.A.Washington, 1655/4).
Comment by D.N.I. the report regarding HIPPER is not considered likely but further information has been requested. One HIPPER Class cruiser believed SEYDLITZ was located at Bremen on 26th February. SEYDLITZ should be ready to begin trials now.

E/Boats.

Suspected E/Boats vicinity of Letman Bank.
(C.in C. Nore, 2105/4).

1 Enemy M.T.B. bearing 050 distance 1 mile course unknown my position 52° 32'N., 2° 6'E.
(Capt: D.21 2140/4).

E/Boat suspected in position 10 miles 075° from Lowestoft at 23 45 course unknown.
(C.in C. Nore, 2359/41).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4. 3. 1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

S/M's with H.G. Convoys.

In addition to my 1152/2/4, following instructions have been given to escorts and Commodores of H.G. convoys. If you concur request these instructions may be passed to C. in C. W.A. for information of C.G. convoys. (S.8,0932/4, to F.O. (S)).

General.

Dangerous area, South Irish Sea.

My 1850/3. Ships not to be sailed through dangerous area without air escort. N.C.S.O.'s to report names of vessels already sailed which are expected to be in area today. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0942/4) Cancel my 0942/4 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1004/4.)
My 1850/3. Report names of vessels already sailed which are expected to be in dangerous area today. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1014/4.)
Your 0942/4, GLAMORGAN COAST E.T.A. Liverpool Q.Z.S. 211 at 0800/5. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1022/4.)

Fighter Escorts.

It is imperative that Fighter Command, in addition to Coastal Command, should be kept fully informed of the movements not only of convoys but also of all independently routed ocean going ships within range of fighter protection. (D.T.D. 1549/4 to F.O.I.C.'s and N.O.I.C.'s.)

Use of W/T Receivers.

(D.T.D. 1805/4, to A.I.O. 84.)

Coastal Convoys.

F.N. 22.

Arrived 0915/4. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0936/4.)
Absentees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0953/4.)

F.S. 26.

19 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0951/4.)
Absentees (0952/4.) 13 ships from Tyne and Tees did not sail. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1044/4.) Delete WITHERINGTON from escort (C. in C. Nore, 1424/4.). No ships from Humber-fog. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1730/4.)

/F.N. 16.....

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys Contd.

F.N.16.
F.N.18. Reply to Admty: 1713/3. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0954/4).

E.N.80. Position. (A.C.O.S. 1020/4). 1 ship ex H.X.109 for repairs. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1105/4).

W.N.94. 0955/4. Escort to Corvette MAYFLOWER for Methil and Tyne. No M.V's sailed. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1035/4, 1118/4). W.N.94 (O). No ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1127/4).

W.N.93. 1 ship with Govt. stores. (N.C.S.O. Lyness, 1040/4.) 1 ship for (N.C.S.O. Lyness 1158/4) Position. (S.O. of Escort 1510/4).

E.N.81. 0100/5. Escorts. 25 ships. Codes. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1043/4).

F.N.23. List. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1046/4) 6 from Tyne, 2 from Middlesborough. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1245/4).

F.S.25. Position. 37 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1049/4). Arrived except HELMOND. (N.C.S.O.Thames, 1620/4).

F.N.26. BERKELEY as additional escort. (C.in C. Nore, 1120/4).

5 M/V's. 1929/3, arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1136/4).

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

E.N.U.80.	Amending 2003/3 - 7 ships, 5 for Oban 1 for Liverpool, 1 for Belfast. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1205/4 amended 1439/4).2115/4 unescorted, 5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 2205/4). List. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 2231/4).
8 M/V's.	E.T.A. Dartmouth 0745/5. (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1207/4). Sailed less 1 (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1943/4). (C.in C. Portsmouth 2003/4).
F.S.27.	12 ships from Methil did not sail. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1231/4) 5 from Sunderland, 12 from Middlesborough. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1243/4). Sailed 1530/4 (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1535/4). 4 ships from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1712/4). List (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1801/4).
Channel.	W.Channel night report. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1434/4, amended 2130/4).
C.E.27.	List. (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1457/4.) Sailed, amending 1447/3 re escorts. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1503/4). E.T.A. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1617/4).
W.N.U.93.	1500/4, unescorted, 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1531/4).
11 M/V's.	N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1606 and 1836/3. Escorts. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1538/4).
E.N.79.	Arrived less MAURITZ. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1545/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

8.M.V's.	E.T.D. 1915/5, E.T.A. 0745/6. Escorts (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 2201/4).
F.N. and F.S.	Additional escorts, amending 1152/2 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2214/4).

Ocean Convoys.

O.B.C. 293.	0215/4, escort ARBUTUS, 15 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0216/4) List (0930/4).
H.X. 109	1 Arrival (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0820/4) 1 Arrival (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1201/4) 2 Arrivals (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1455/4) 1 Arrival (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1702/4).
O.B.O. 293	Sailed 0730/4, escort CAMELIA 5 list (N.C.S.O Oban 0906/4).
S.L. 65.	Not met. Weather (VANOC, 1000/4) Amending 1 destination (D.T.D. 1951/4).
H.G. 55.	List (F.O.C.N.A. 1039/4) 3rd Escort Group to meet (C. in C. W.A. 1738/4). Time and date of R.V. (F.O.C.N.A. 1636/4 to Admty).
S.L. 67	ARETHUSA to escort (F.O.C.N.A. 1118/4).
O.B. 293	WOLVERINE to rejoin (C. in C. W.A. 1120/4).
S.L. 66	MALVERNIAN to join, position, route. (F.O.C.N.P. 1140/4).
O.G. 54.	P.c. and s. (LINCOLN 1201/4).
O.B.U. 293	Cancel my 2005/3 (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1203/4).

/S.C. 23.....

War Diary. 4.3.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys. (contd).

S.C. 23.	KING SOL, LADY LILIAN to meet, 41 hours late. (C. in C. W.A., 1438/4) Meet (C. in C. W.A. 1856/4 to AMBUSCADE, ABERDEEN, etc) My 1938/1, delete 1 ship (D.T.D. 1944/4)
S.L.S. 65.	A/C report of position (C. in C. W.A. 1507/4 to PEGASUS, CALDWELL) Amending destination (D.T.D. 1604/4 C. in C. W.A. 1804/4 to VANOC, etc).
H.X. 111	Sailing telegram as amended Admty. (D.T.D. 1710/4).
H.X. 110.	Meet (C. in C. W.A. 1820/4 to HAVELOCK, HESPERUS, HARVESTER).
H.G. 54.	WOLSEY and VANITY to meet (C. in C. W.A. 1838/4) Meet (C. in C. W.A. 1929/4 to BROKE, ST. KENAN, SALADIN, etc).
O.G. 55.	7 Turkish ferry boats to join (C. in C. W.A. 1909/4).
H.X. 108	6 hours late at R.V. (D.T.D. 1945/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
H.X. 107.	Scattered by gale 4 - 5/2 and hurricane 10 - 12/2. BLACK OSPREY and BENJAMIN FRANKLIN torpedoed and sunk. TARIA bombed 300 miles S. of route, now arrived damaged. EMPIRE BLANDA and EDWY R. BROWN not yet accounted for. (D.T.D. 1948/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
S.C. 22.	On time at R.V. no stragglers Marine Casualty KERVEGAN. Bombed and sunk in Irish Sea, ROTULA. EMPIRE SIMBA (joined from H.X. 108) bombed and damaged in Irish Sea. (D.T.D. 1949/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

/O.B.M. 294.....

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.
(contd)

O.B.M. 294. List (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1950/4).

O.G.M. 55. 1700/6, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, 8 (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 1950 /4).

O.B.M. 294 Sailed 1921/4 LEEDS UNITED, 10. (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 1950/4).

MILITARY CONVOYS.

REPULSE.
FURIOUS.
STRATHMORE.
ALCANTARA. My 2247/28 para. 1. Amend position B to read 55° 40' N. 8° 30' W. and position D to read 40° 00' N. 19° 00' W. (D.O.D.H. 1329/4).
Sailed STRATHMORE Ocean Escort O.R.P. GARLAND 1730. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1805/4).

W.S.7. Following are proposed embarkation arrangements.
2. Request confirmation that this Programme can be maintained. (D. of S.T. 2334/4).

MOST SECRET.

4.3.41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

RESTIVE.	Now towing RESTIVE. Request escort. Proceeding Stornoway. My position is 060° 15' N., 012° 15' W.(PRUDENT 0835/4.)
BROKE.	Your 2256/3. Check valve on third boiler still defective but boiler can be used in an emergency. Vessel may have to return to Belfast on completion of present duty.(F.O.I.C. Belfast 0944/4).
TAKU.	If not in contact with TAKU report your position after dark tonight. (C. in C. W.A. 1238/4, to ENCHANTRESS.) If not in contact with ENCHANTRESS or GLADIOLUS report your position after dark tonight. (C. in C. W.A. 1245/4,to TAKU.)
CITY OF CALCUTTA. (British, 8063 Tons.)	Your 1301/4. Attempt to find CITY OF CALCUTTA. (C. in C. W.A. 1407/4, to HURRICANE.) Position of CITY OF CALCUTTA at 9000/4. 50° 40' N., 9° 20' W. Estimated speed 12 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 2302/4.)
RODNEY. (Fishing Vessel.)	British Fishing Boat CAREDA reports she sunk fishing vessel RODNEY of Grimsby at 0500/3. G.M.T. by collision. Approximately 150 miles S.E. Vestmann Islands. 2 hands of crew of 11 saved. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1643/4.)
SKJOLD	(Danish, 1345 Tons). Sunk in collision with ROEBUCK off Hamble River. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1753/4.) SKJOLD has been beached on East Side of entrance to Hamble River. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1924/4.)
WIVERN.	WIVERN has wire round propeller. Probably unable reach Oversay R/V in time. (Capt. D. Londonderry 2340/4.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

LOUIS CHARLES SCHIAFFINO.

Vichy French, 3089 tons, bound from Algeria to a French port, was torpedoed and sunk in error by A/C marked with black crosses one mile from Algerian Coast on 26/2. Crew saved. (D.S. 546, 4/3) (T.D. Casualty Section 4/3).

French Convoys

French armed trawler LA SETOISE passed Gibraltar westbound at 0750/3 escorting French M.V's FORT DE SOUVILLE, 5229 tons, CHENONCEAUX, 14,825 tons, AITREE (N.T. in Lloyds) and ROUBAISIEN, 3152 tons. French sloop minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE passed Gibraltar eastbound at 0955/2 escorting French M.V. BENTY, 3078 tons. (D.O.R. 4/3).

H.G. Convoys

Instructions to escorts re submarines employed with H.G. convoys. (S.8, 0934/4) See Shipping and Convoys.

BELGIQUE.

Your 2213/3? as stated in my 1202/8 ship can not be docked laden. She should return to Gibraltar with barley, dock and then proceed to loading Port. Ship is being sailed for Cadiz forthwith. (F.O.C.N.A., 0942/4 to Admty).
My 1202/8 my 1200/19 and my 1215/26. I am unaware of reason for long delay of BELGIQUE at Gibraltar. Continued presence of ships known to be loaded with a large cargo of grain which no attempt is being made to discharge in sight of countryside where people are literally starving to death daily and with whom we are trying to cultivate friendly relations is not likely to further this object nor is grain likely to improve. I am informed a considerable portion of CRARDA's cargo discharged at Algericas has so (?deteriorated) that it had to be washed before it could be fed to cattle. (F.O.C.N.A. 1630/4 to Admty).

S/M Recognition Signals.

Daylight grenades, night grenades and flashing signals are in future not to be used by allied submarines to identify themselves to British aircraft. Identification flare is only recognition signal which can be used. Submarines on surface outside sanctuaries whose movements have not been promulgated and who do not exhibit correct identification flare should be attacked. Above procedure is to come into force at 0001 G.M.T/6/3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1216/4 to N. Atlantic).

/RENOWN.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

RENOWN exercises. — RENOWN and 6 destroyers proceed to sea for exercises and firings at 0830/5 returning 1300/6. (S.O. Force H., 1221/4).

Spanish Arrest of British Seamen. — 3 seamen (names) of ARGUS arrested by Spanish Authorities at La Linea on 31/12. Negotiations for release going on between N.A. Madrid and Spanish Authorities, and hoped to obtain release shortly. (F.O.C.N.A. 1720/4 to Admty).

My 1227/4 (see GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS). In view of possible movements RUDOLPH ALBRECHT and Italian vessels from Teneriffe assume following patrols forthwith: MARON, V one, and REGISTAN, T one. (F.O.C.N.A. 1730/4 to MARON, REGISTAN).
Unless otherwise ordered by Adty comply with my 1730/4. (F.O.C.N.A. 2036/4 to MARON, REGISTAN).

Air Operations. — Area covered 3° 50' W. to 8° 30' W. (200 Group 1741/4).

PANDORA. — Position of Submarines 1200/5 and movements for 24 hours.
0.23. — PANDORA with H.G. 55.
OLYMPUS. — 0.23 p.c. and s. 042° N. 021° W. 154° 7 knots position very approximate.
OLYMPUS 038° 20' N. 011° W. proceeding through 036° 35' N. 009° 30' W. to Gibraltar may be proceeding submerged by day. (F.O.C.N.A. 2316/4 to N.A. Stn).

South Atlantic.

CHATEAU-ROUX. — Your 2131/28. What Recoding Tables are held by CHATEAU-ROUX? Check and repeat position "C" received as 38° 10' N. 29° 37' W Give time and date of arrival at 58° 15' N. (Minches) (D.T.D. 1533/4 to N.C.S.O. Freetown Reply 1119/6.

/Dakar.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Dakar Intelligence, RICHELIEU.	Following from Navy Dept. From Dakar. 26/2 sailed SINAIA for Casablanca. 27/2 arrived VENDOME from North 28/2 arrived HOGGAR from South. Sailed SAVOIE ASIE and FELIX HENRI for South. 25/2 report that damage to RICHELIEU was near stern on starboard side. 21 Square metres of plates replaced by a Cofferdam. No trial run but believed three shafts serviceable and possibly fourth. (N.A. Washington 1710/4 to Admty).
U-Boats off Freetown.	Admty 1408/3. Request on what information presence of two Italian U-boats S.W. of Freetown is based. One was (? reported by) CLAN OGILVY on 28/2 periscope only sighted and considered doubtful, my 1046/3 refers. Have no other information. (C. in C. S.A. 1755/4 to Admty).
Bissagos Islands.	Your 1855/3/1. Should you decide to carry out an air reconnaissance of Bissagos Islands, Portugese air space may be violated by aircraft for the purpose, but territorial waters should be respected by H.M. Ships. Should any enemy vessels be discovered in territorial waters, they may not be attacked, but a report should be made by most immediate signal. (Head of M. 1923/4 to C. in C. S.A).
PROME. CITY OF PARIS.	Dates due at Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 2332/4 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I).
Sunderlands.	My 2303/16/1. Owing to urgent requirements in N.W. Approaches the departure of 3 Sunderlands to Freetown to replace those damaged on passage has had to be deferred. (D.O.D.(F) 2338/4 to C. in C. S.A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Suez Canal Raid

About six enemy aircraft raided canal 1915 to 2030/3. First report indicates probability of six unexploded in canal between Port Said and Ismailia and one at Kharag, 140.7. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 0007/4 to Admty etc).

Tripoli Reccon. Enemy Units.

Reconnaissance reports Tripoli (Libya) harbour 1715/3 8 large ships, 21 medium size, 24 small craft. 6 miles north of Tripoli, one ship probably cruiser 8 miles north of Tripoli. 2 destroyers and 2 large ships. 15 miles north, battleship on fire, one destroyer standing by. All ships heading for Tripoli. 50 miles 350° Tripoli 3 destroyers, 2 cruisers and 2 ships, 1500 tons, heading 130° at 1245 and 170° 1315. (Capt. S.1. 0836/4 to S/M's on Patrol).

WIDNES, GRIMSBY, ABERDARE, HARROW. SHOREHAM.

To join Mediterranean Fleet and should sail for Suez as soon as possible. SHOREHAM to remain on East Indies station for the present until a minesweep can be provided for her. Admiralty 0116/15 is cancelled. Hoped to send two groups of A/S - M/S trawlers to the Mediterranean on completion of their fitting out next month. (D.M.S. 1118/4 to C. in C's Med., E.I., China).

A.N. 16.

Arrived between 2000/3 and 1100/4. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1145/4 to Admty).

FESSENDEN.

Cancel my 0911/3 sailing deferred. Further signal will be made when dock ready. (Capt. S.1. 1156/4 to ROVER).

Air Report.

Operational Summary No. 267 up to 1200 hours 4/3. Reconnaissance of Tripoli, Brindisi, Valona. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1234/4).

Italian Ships sunk by S/M's.

Your 1141/3 (no trace in W.R) List of 21 vessels sunk between 20/6/40 and 23/2/41 by H.M. submarines, also 8 probably sunk between 21/8/40 and 25/2/41. (Capt. S.1, 1541/4 to F.O.S) See Special Summaries Folder).

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd)

Malta Report.	Combined Services Report Malta up to 1600 hours 4/3. Recco. At sea 5 M/Vs 2,000 - 4,000 tons escorted by 2 destroyers seen at 1335 20 miles N.E. Marittimo Island Course 260° speed 5 to 7 knots. Enemy air activity, 3 alarms during daylight caused by small formations of enemy fighters. Only 1 crossed coast. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1615/4).
B.S.18.	1500 G.M.T. 4/3. GUNDA, NORSE LADY, ATLAS TAMAROA. Destinations. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1653/4 to Admty etc).
Mine Clearance.	Reply to 1949/27 item 3. (N.A. to V.C.N.S. 1718/4 to C. in C. Med).
B.N. 17.	My 1747/3/3. (B.N. 17 arrived Suez 2/3 less ALFIOS) Greek ALFIOS arrived Suez 4/3 completing B.N. 17. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1733/4).
Enemy Convoy.	Convoy 5 Merchant ships escorted by two destroyers sighted 20 miles N.E. of Marittimo Island course 260° speed 6 knots at 1530 B today. (Comdr. S.1. 1845/4 to UNIQUE UPHOLDER).
A.N. Convoy.	(1) A.N. Alexandria section (ii) 2000/4 EL HAK petrol Piraeus, WARSZAWA military stores Suda Bay. (R.A. Alexandria, 2007/4 to Admty etc).
TERROR.	Intend 10/3 shall be official date for paying off TERROR. (C. in C. Med 2008/4 to Admty).
OAKFIELD, WAR NIZAM.	Your 1658/10/2. Regretted these ships cannot be spared for this service. (D.O.D. (F) 2106/4 to C. in C. Med).
UPHOLDER.	Capt. (S) 1's 0836/4. Proceed with despatch to operate in sector Y within 50 miles between bearings 320° and 030° from Tripoli main light. Cancel my 1331/3. (Comdr. S.1. 2116/4 to UPHOLDER).

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Enemy intelligence. Air R.C. 4/3. (i) Palermo. (ii) Trapani. (iv) Convoy of 5 medium merchant vessels escorted by two destroyers 20 miles N.E. of Marittimo Island course 260° speed 6 knots. (V.A. Malta 2145/4).

Suez Canal. While present enemy mining attacks continue - request brief daily report on the state of Suez Canal, in particular whether open or closed, and estimated date of re-opening. (V.C.N.S. 2147/4 to C. in C. Med).

R.M. Group A/A Units. Cancel Admty. 1640/17/12/40. Units of R.M. Group and Naval Personnel as in Admty 2335/26/1/41 sailed in W.S.6. Re employment. (D. of L.D. 2333/4 to C. in C Med).

ILLUSTRIOUS. LIVERPOOL. My 1332/30/1. and 2349/17/2. To further arrangements for repairs of ILLUSTRIOUS and LIVERPOOL, request early information when they will be ready to sail. (D.O.D.(F) 2337/4 to C. in C. Med).

East Indies.

WIDNES. GRIMSBY. To join Med. Fleet (See Mediterranean).

SHOREHAM. To remain East Indies for present. (See Mediterranean).

Force Z. Departure KANDAHAR for Force Z. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0340Z/4).

Dhow abandoned. W.C. 38 India West Coast Dhow abandoned in approx. position 16° 12' N. 72° 54' E. dangerous to Navigation. (Navyntell, Colombo, 0522Z/4 to Admty).
4/3 arrival 0200Z YARRA, departure 0445Z FLAMINGO for Force Z 0550Z CHANTALA for Perim patrol. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0552Z/4).

/PENSILVANIA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd)

PENSILVANIA. SHROPSHIRE attack on Modun.

My 1026/17/2 PENSILVANIA now known to have been sunk by gunfire presumably from SHROPSHIRE, my 1820/13/2 (note to M.I.C.E) refers.
My 1906/23/2 SHROPSHIRE caused great damage and large number Military casualities at Modun which may well have been decisive factor in Italian decision to evacuate. (C. in C. E.I. 07322/4 to Admty).

HERMES. EMERALD.

My 1534/1. HERMES is proceeding to Trincomalee 5/3 to boiler clean and exchange aircraft, my 1150/1 refers. EMERALD will escort HERMES and return to Colombo arriving 7/3. (C. in C. E.I. 1244Z/4 to Admty).

COBURG and KETTY BROVIG sunk by CANBERRA.

My 0744/3. CANBERRA and LEANDER sighted 1 merchant ship accompanied by 1 tanker in position 008° 40' S. 061° 25' E. at 1205Z/4.
By 1225Z/4 both raider and tanker were on fire, latter sinking by stern. Intend to suppress the news for the present. (C. in C. E.I. 1259Z/4 amended 1400Z/4).
My 1259/4. Tanker reported to be ATHELKING but see my 0810/1 (W.D. Note: Later reported to be KETTY BROVIG, ex-Norwegian see CANBERRA, 2005/4) Merchant ships was reported to be raider but she did not reply to CANBERRA's fire at 18000 yards. Confirmation awaited. Tanker took scuttle action attempt being made to save her. For 1245 read 1225. (C. in C. E. 1400Z/4)
Note by C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
ATHELKING was captured by the enemy in September 1940.
Sighted merchant Ships COBURG and Tanker KETTY BROVIG ex Norwegian at 1150Z/4 and ordered them to stop. Ships separated, tanker steering south Merchant Ship north flying no colour. Engaged later at 1207Z suspected her of being a raider. She did not reply and was subsequently found to have no guns. She was set on fire amidships. I then ceased fire. Tanker was threatened with near miss bombs by aircraft and scuttled I (?kept) out of range until both ships were abandoned and settling in order to avoid possible torpedo risk. Then closed tanker in hope of salving but boarding party could not stop inflow of water, engine and boiler room being completely flooded to upper deck. Subsequently fired few rounds into her and left her in a sinking condition. COBURG which was burning

/strongly.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

COBURG and KETTY BROVIG sunk by CANBERRA. (contd).

strongly amidships, sank at 1349Z: LEANDER picked up survivors. KETTY BROVIG had souvenirs of ATHEL KING. hence mistake in my 1314Z/4. COBURG left Massowa about 21/2 KETTY BROVIG possibly captured by pocket battleship about 2/2 as survivors say latter was last in company with tanker on 13/2. Position unknown. (CANBERRA, 2005Z/4 to C. in C. E.I).

Captured Enemy M.V's.

Your 1156/2/3. Reply re manning. (N.O.I.C. E.A. and Z., 1657Z/4 to C. in C.E.I

China.

ABERDARE.)
HARROW.)

At Singapore. To join Mediterranean Fleet. (See Mediterranean).

ELISAVET. MICHAEL KIVANOS.

My 0711/3 Greek ship ELISAVET arrived Singapore 4/3, MICHAEL KIVANOS apparently diverted to Fremantle. (S.O.I. Singapore 0301/4).

D'ARTAGNAN. Indo-China Trade.

My 0319Z/25/2. Decoux has replied to representations as follows (1) Voyage of D'ARTAGNAN was due to a misunderstanding which he will explain separately. He has given orders that she is not in future to leave China Station and that all articles of agreement regarding navigation shall be strictly observed and applied.
(2) Government of Indo China give assurance that they will keep advance party informed of progress of negotiations and explain reasons which might induce it to take steps which might appear 'A Priori' to be contrary to provisions of article 13 (3) Decoux wished to impress us that whole object of his recent negotiations Netherlands East Indies has been to enable Indo China to comply with the spirit of this article and that he is trying with the same object to develop Indo China's export trade to Countries other than Japan, beginning in the first instance with Malaya and Netherlands East Indies. (C. in C. China 0309Z/4 to Admty).

/orders.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.3.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (contd).

Orders to Shipping. Your 1608/1. I do not consider situation permits relaxing my 0232/12/2 at any rate until Thai Indo-China dispute is settled. As far as I am aware only British controlled tanker that has been stopped going to Shanghai is VARDAAS, vide A.M. 1825/21. I am enquiring from Shanghai which does not depend solely on British Oil Companies. (C. in C. China, 0427Z/4 to Admty).

America & West Indies.

TRELAWNEY. My 1126/22/2. S.S. TRELAWNEY due New York 2/3 now overdue. Agents had private advice ship due between 3 and 5/3. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1136/4 to Admty).

HOPE RIDGE. My 1253/1 British Ship HOPE RIDGE arrived Colon 2nd. (S.O.I. Kingston 1157/4).

BLACK CONDON FLAMINIAN. H.X. 112, my 1434/1 British BLACK CONDON carrying 33 bags of mail transferred from FLAMINIAN delayed here by degaussing. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1508/4 to Admty).

EUGENIE LIVANOS. Greek Ship although requisitioned by Greek Govt. was sailed by owner on 24/2 from Norfolk for Bahia Blanca in ballast. Ship not routed as master disobeyed agent's instructions to report. Believed due Bahia Blanca 21/3. G.B.M.S. order to proceed to New York disregarded. M. of Shipping has requested naval assistance if necessary to compel ship proceed to New York. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1602/4 to C. in C. S.A. R.A.S.A.D).

HIPPER SEYDLITZ. Navy Dept. report HIPPER awaiting docking at Bremen to repair damager, SEYDLITZ recently completed. (N.A. Washington, 1655/4 to Admty).

/H.X. 113.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

H.X. 113. — You may meet PRINCE DAVID escorting Bermuda portion of H.X. 113 on 6th/7th March and ALAUNIA escorting Halifax portion of H.X. 113 on 7/3. (R.A.3 B.S. 1701/4 to TRIBUNE).

RONIN. — N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1102/27 (Re sailings of RONIN). Presume Admty. 1118/1/2 no longer applies. Request confirmation. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2204/4 to Admty).
My 2220/4 Halifax convoy arrival March 4. For H.M.S. RAMILLIES read British Ship RAMILLES. 1441/5.

Australia.

BATHURST.
LISMORE. — Your 1130/30/1. Request BATHURST and LISMORE be sailed for Singapore on completion of operation in Great North East Channel. They will join China Station and not proceed to Mediterranean for the present.
(D.M.S. 1119/4 to A.C.N.B)

MENTOR. — Have you any news of MENTOR?
(D.T.D. 1603/4 to A.C.N.B).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

REGENSBERG. Arrived Yokohama 2/3. (Capt O.S. Singapore, 0831Z/4) Last reported as having left Yokohama 20/12 (D.S. 547, 5/3).

RUDOLF ALBRECHT. Italian ships at Teneriffe painted upper work grey and crews talk of sailing in March. A 2 report, 14 vessels will make for Dakar. German ship RUDOLF ALBRECHT at Teneriffe is leading 200 tons of extra bunkers. A 2 report vessel apparently being fitted as supply and prison ship for raiders and that Master has been instructed to be ready to sail by 5/3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1227/4 to N.A. Stn). Previous movements of RUDOLF ALBRECHT (D.S. 547 5/3);

BRAKE. BRAKE arrived from Ferrol 2/3 loaded with petroleum. (Bilbao, 1246/4 to D.N.I).

LECH. My 0815/3 ship has berthed alongside and commenced discharge 3,800 tons cargo. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1640/4).

SPEZIA. Sailed today Marseilles. (Valencia T.H.I 2400/4).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

VILLE DE MAJUNGA. Cape Town 3/3 arrival VILLE DE MAJUNGA with armed guard. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0730Z/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

SOMALIA.	Now definitely established that the second ship unaccounted for at Kismayu was SOMALIA 2699 tons, and not YAMARURI MARU which had left some time previous to capture of the port. (D.S. 546).
Ships at Teneriffe.	See RUDOLF ALBRECHT (German Merchant Ships) List of ships at Teneriffe (D.S. 547 5/3).
PASUBIO.	Left Susak 1/3 for Fiume (D.S. 547).
PENSILVANIA.	Sunk by gunfire, presumably from SHROPSHIRE (C. in C. E.I. 0732Z/4) See East Indies.
ADRIA, MANON, LEONARDO DE VINCI. ERMINIA MAZZELLA SAVOIA.	S.O. Force W. 1109/3 not to Adty. Inform authorities that immediately the ships have been condemned in prize it is desired to sail them to Bombay and Durban in accordance with Admty 1328/2. Expedition is essential and it is not considered formality of transferring ships to British Registry which can be completed elsewhere justifies their detention at Mombasa for this purpose. (C. in C. E.I. 1108Z/4 to N.O.I.C. E. Africa).
MAURO CROCE.	Arrived 4/3 MAURO CROCE from Genoa. (Barcelona. 1705/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

MANISTEE (torpedoed 23/2)	Regret to report presumed loss of MANISTEE torpedoed 2145/23 in 58° 13' N. 21° 33' W. and again at 0721/24 in 58° 55' W. CHURCHILL LEOPARD and HEATHER sent to assist after first attack but destroyers had to be diverted to R/V with T.C.9 HEATHER searched wide area around position of second attack from 1000/24 until dark without result. (C.in C. W.A., 1201/4 to Admty.). Regret have nothing to add to C.in C. W.A. 1201/4. (F.O.C.N.P. 1910/4).
RYDBOHOLM (torpedoed 26/2).	Swedish, 3197 tons, torpedoed at 0110/26 in O.B.290, at same time as DIALA, BORGLAND, and KASONGO, in 55.45 N., 14.29 W., 280° Bloody Foreland 215'. (D.S. 547, 5/3).
CLEA (torpedoed 11-15/2).	British tanker, 8074 tons, in Govt. service. sailed from Bermuda 28/1 for Loch Ewe, and overdue there since 16/2, is reported to have been torpedoed between 11/2 and 15/2 in N.W. Approaches. (D.S. 547, 5/3).

Submarines Reported.

0050	58° to 58.30 N., 16° - 18° W., position indefinite (German)	D.S. 546, 4/3.
0845	59.30 N., 8° W. position indefinite (German)	
0606	Possibly vicinity of Finisterre position indefinite (German)	
1209	57.35 N., 18.25 W. position indefinite (Italian)	D.S. 547 5/3.
2145) 2111)	51.40 N., 15.40 W. position indefinite (Italian)	
2332	54° - 55° N., W. of 20° W., very indefinite position. (Italian)	

/ Estimated U/B dispositions. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

German.

1 20 miles of 59° 30' N. 8° 10' W.
1 30 miles of 58° 40' N. 8° 20' W.
1 40 miles of 59° N. 11° W.
1 N.E. Rockall.
1 30 miles of 58° 20' N. 17° W.
2 57 degs. N. - 57° 30' N. 16° W. - 18° W.
1 40 miles of 56° N. 15° W.
1 30 miles of 55° 30' N. 21° W.
1 54 degs. N. - 55° N. 15° W. - 17° W.
1 40 miles of 53° 30' N. 18° 30' W.
1 40 miles of 53° 30' N. 16° 30' W.
1 off Finisterre.

Italian.

1 20 miles of 57° 30' N. 18° 30' W.
1 51° N. 18° W. 1649/3 en route Bordeaux.
1 54° N. - 55° N. 17° W. - 18° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1346/4)
(F.O.S., 1627/4 to TAKU, PORPOISE).

Freetown Area.

Commenting on Admty. 1408/3. (C.in C. S.A. 1755/4 - see South Atlantic).

Submarines Attacked.

1127.

Have attacked non submarine contact in position 58.17 N., 2.29 W.
(ARROW 1127/4 to A.C.O.S.).
Your 1127/4 there is a non-sub contact 1½ miles from your reported position.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1334/4, to ARROW).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Search for Enemy T/Bs.

At 2140 yesterday CAMPBELL (Capt: D.21) reported an enemy M.T.B. east of Lowestoft, the first indication being when a torpedo surfaced 30 yards off, having passed close astern. At 2218 German T.B's LUCHS, FALKE and JOACHIM were reported off Yarmouth. Visibility at the time was bad. At 0050 today the enemy were still 8 to 10 miles off Yarmouth. WORCESTER, WHITSHED, CAMPBELL (Capt: D.21) and COTTESMORE were ordered to patrol off Aldeburgh. 3 M.T.Bs. which left Harwich at 1827/4 for patrol to prevent minelaying by enemy E/Boats were ordered to remain near the Inner Gabbard until daylight. V.4. proceeded to Gap E to attack the enemy if they returned.

U/Boat Campaign.

It is reported that S.S. PACIFIC, ex Convoy H.X.109 was torpedoed and sunk at 2345/1 about 250 miles N.W. of Butt of Lewis.

S.S. HOLMELEA which reported being gunned 28/2 is stated by survivors to have been torpedoed and sunk on 28/2, believed 260 miles West of Slyne Head.

Trade with Sweden.

The Ministry of Economic Warfare announces a limited resumption of trade between the U.K. and Sweden, 5 Swedish ships being permitted to enter Gottenburg from oversea every month.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

Six torpedo aircraft carried out an offensive patrol off the Dutch Coast this afternoon. Certain of the standard patrols, including two along the coast of Norway, and A/S convoy escorts ~~flown~~ flown today. Two aircraft attacked a U/Boat 214 miles west of Achill Head today.

Six Blenheims with fighter escort carried out a most successful attack on the docks at Boulogne today.

Enemy Air Activity.

Cardiff was attacked again between 2024/4 and 0045/5, by about 100 aircraft. Little damage was done in Cardiff Docks but some damage was caused to Mount-stuart Dry Docks Ltd., and to the railway station. There were no naval casualties.

Mining.

A.A. ships will be stationed in the Thames Estuary from p.m. today until further notice, to prevent minelaying by enemy aircraft.

Parachutes were seen to fall, objects were heard to drop, and explosions occurred last night in the Thames Estuary.

/SILVERSTONE

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Contd.)

SILVERSTONE
ROCKSTONE
STONECURB
OLSTONE.

Diesel tug SILVERSTONE and a petrol barge were blown to pieces, a paraffin barge was burnt out and sunk and an oil fuel barge set on fire and damaged when an explosion, believed to be due to a ground mine occurred in the Medway above Rochester Bridge this afternoon. The river is blocked.

LUDA LORD (M/S Trawler) was damaged this morning while detonating an acoustic mine off Plymouth.

Special instructions as to speed of ships entering Bristol Channel were issued late tonight.

Cardiff was opened to ships not fitted with I.C.engines this forenoon.

Mines were exploded off Swansea today, Harwich, and Liverpool (8).

8

North Atlantic.

O.B.V. CORINTHIAN intercepted the French fishing vessel BIJOU BIHEN about 200 miles W.S.W. of Casablanca today and is sending her into Gibraltar.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Falklands Islands defences, see R.A.S.A.D 1342Z/5.

Mediterranean.

Bulgaria. Diplomatic relations with Bulgaria were broken off this morning.

Bosporus. A Turkish Notice to Mariners requires ships to follow a pilot tug in the Bosporus.

10 Swordfish aircraft left Malta at dusk today for operations against Tripoli.

Air Attacks on Malta.
A Sunderland was slightly damaged by machine gunning this morning in St. Paul's Bay. Bombs were dropped some distance out to sea off Delimara. Large formations of enemy bombers accompanied by fighters raider the island this afternoon. Considerable damage was done at Hal Far (which is temporarily out of action) and some damage at Kalafrana. Four of our aircraft were destroyed on the ground and all others are temporarily unserviceable. A large number of enemy aircraft were brought down or damaged. One Hurrinane was lost.

Mining in Suez Canal. Traffic has been resumed between Lake Timsah and Great Bitter Lake. It is hoped to resume traffic between Great Bitter Lake and Suez p.m./6. There are probably 5 unexploded mines between Lake Timsah and Port Said.

2 D.W.I. Wellingtons exploded 2 mines in the Canal today.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

From the Merchant Service Seamen released at Mogadishu it is learnt that all were captured by one raider, the ATLANTIS, a 19 knot ship, largest gun 7.9 inch. The raider's method of operating is described in signals from C.in C. E.I. today. She left Germany on 20th March, 1940. It appears that she had no bases, overhauls engines at sea, and had no supply ship or tankers but relies on victims. Her shipping intelligence is excellent and C.in C. E.I considers codes in some British ships were captured.

America and West Indies.

DIOMEDE was this evening ordered to patrol off the Gulf of Nicoya, Costa Rica, to intercept the Italian S.S. FELLA which is reported to be preparing to sail.

MOST SECRET.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

S/M's escorting H.G. or O.G. Convoys.	Your 1044/2. In the event of escorting submarines in H.G. or O.G. convoys while on Home stations becoming completely seperated from Convoy and escorts, request their reports may be repeated to F.O. (S) so that necessary T.B.R. can be arranged. (F.O.S. 1614/5).
Procedure by S/M's escorting convoys.	Remarks on S.S's 0932/4. (F.O.S. 1636/5).
ARIGUANI. MAPLIN. PATIA.	Will be used for special trade protection duties under C.in C. W.A. (D.O.D.(F) 1643/5).

Movements.

SUNFISH.	F.O.S. 1213/3. On leaving Stadtlandet, route as follows to Gap A.0300/11. Dive by day to eastward of western limit of East Coast mine barrage. When South of 058° N., do not attack S/M's unless their hostile identity is established. (S.6. 1155/5 to SUNFISH).
FERNIE.	Your 1100/5 received. Chasers will be operating south of Q.Z.Y.171. OTUS leaves Needles 1745 for Dartmouth routed north of Q.Z.X.267. You are to keep South of 50° 15'N., until East of 001° 30'W and then enter by Q.Z.S.169 and 111. E.T.A. Nab 0800. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1503/5 to FERNIE).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

URGE. — Capt: (S) 6's 1155/5 F.O.S. 1152/3 is confirmed. When South of 058° N., Submarines are not to be attacked unless hostile identity is certain.
(S.9. 1845/5 to URGE.)

KELLY
KASHMIR
KELVIN. — Sailed 1940.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1956/5).

Operations.

2 Enemy Torpedo Boats. — Enemy Torpedo Boats LUCHS, FALKE and JOACHIM reported off Yarmouth at 2218.
(C.in C. Nore, 0023/5 to Capt: (D) 21).

3. M.T.B's are remaining near Inner Gabbard until daylight then returning Harwich.
(C.in C. Nore, 0035/5 to D.21).
WORCESTER and WHITSHED proceed forthwith to patrol between 54 F Buoy and Aldeburgh light buoy. CAMPBELL and COTTESMORE to Northwards of 54 F.Buoy.
(C.in C. Nore, 0049/5 to D.16., D.21).
T.B. still 8 to 10 miles off Lowestoft at 0050.
(C.in C. Nore, 0053/5).
Following received at 0055. At 2118 G.M.T. LUCHS to JOACHIM visibility already very bad. At 2158 G.M.T. LUCHS to JOACHIM stop engines.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0057/5 to C.in C. Nore)
V.4. proceeding to patrol gap E. along meridian 002° 30'E., with orders to attack returning enemy M.T.B. with torpedoes.
(C.in C. Nore, 0237/5 to D.16., D.21).
Arrivals M.T.B's 22, 31 and 32 at 0859/5.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0902/5):

/My 2140/4

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

My 2140/4 to Whitehall W/T. First indication of presence of E/Boat was when torpedo surfaced 30 yards on starboard quarter having passed close astern. Course was altered 120° up estimated track of torpedo and speed increased. White smoke immediately sighted ahead and the area searched with starshell without result. E/Boat fired up moon. Distance from position torpedo surfaced to smoke screen 4000 yards. On moonlight nights recommend that ships on patrol 'O' keep about 2 to 3 miles to eastward of Swept Channel. Patrol established in accordance with your 0049/5. Nothing sighted. CAMPBELL's A.S.V. was out of action from 2020.
(D.21 1255/5 to C.in C. Nore).

Q.D.

Weather permitting operation Q.D. will be carriedout today by four aircraft. (C.in C. Nore, 1240/5). My 1240/5. Operation Q.D. cancelled owing to weather.
(C.in C. Nore, 1751/5).

Operation CLAYMORE.

Following details amplifying my 1623/4. (Capt: D.6. 1804/5 and 2025/5).
See Operations Volume.

My 1804. Passengers disposed as follows. (Capt: D.6. 1821/5).
See Operations Volume.

Maintain W/T silence.
(C.in C. H.F. 2309/5 to Capt: D.6.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Air Patrols 5/3. FAIR, S.A.2.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0809/5).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Patrols. (Contd.)

Following patrols are being flown today, STAB, BERT FAIR.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0942/5).
My 0809/5. Following additional patrols now in operation TROST STAB BERT.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1110/5).
My 1826/4. Second code word should be Scent, not Wheel.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1520/5 to A.O.C. 10th Group).
Patrol S.T.2. at 0730 and S.T.1 at 1500 for 6/3.
(N.A.Station, Stornoway, 1640/5).

Operation ROVER.

C. Carry out operation ROVER today with four torpedo A/C and two A/C with bombs. Operation not to be carried out unless weather conditions are suitable. D.112/5.
(A.C.H.Q. Nore, 1112/5 to North Coates).

Escorts.

Expect A/S air escort of Whitley aircraft from 2000/5 to 0800/6.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1625/5 to BEVERLEY).
My 1500/5. Fighter escort tonight for "MIGHT" 2 Blenheims on distant cover 1745 to 1945, close cover 3 Hurricanes 1840 to 1940 1 Hurricane 1940 to 2030.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1716/5 to CURACOA, GLEANER, VALOROUS).
Expect A/S escort from Daylight/6. Hudson A/C.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1930/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

Boulogne.

1. Day 5/3. Six Blenheims with fighter escort carried out a most successful attack on the Docks at Boulogne. Bursts were seen on target causing an immediate fire on east side of Harbour.
(H.Q.B.C. 0010/6).

Enemy Air Activity.

MELMORE HEAD. (Bombed 26/2).

Arrived rescue tug THAMES with MELMORE HEAD in tow.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0828/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy W.N.Odd.	Fighter aircraft is being sent to the assistance of Convoy MATERIAL. (Lyness 0923/5). No air attack now imminent on Convoy Material and ELECTRA. (Scapa W/T 0945/5). Fighter aircraft has been sent to assist Convoy "Material". (Plymouth W/T 1259/5). Air Attack imminent on Convoy MATERIAL and fighter aircraft have been sent to its assistance. (Lyness 1456/5). No air attack on Convoy "Material". (Rosyth 1510/5). Fighter protection has been despatched to odd numbered W.N.Convoy. (Lyness 1851/5).
SIMALOER (Bombed 2/3).	Your 0900/5. Proceeding full speed from Rothesay to assist SIMALOER. (THAMES 0934/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). My 1710/4. SIMALOER reported by aircraft 56° 36'N., 09° 46'W. at 1127/4. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1025/5 to KINGCUP, SCHELDE). Sailed Tug THAMES from Greenock to assist SIMALOER. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1030/5). Your 1730. Continue search. Aircraft being sent tomorrow to assist you to locate SIMALOER. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 2000/5 to KINGCUP)
German Aircraft Signal.	Weak signal intercepted by Peterhead at 0906 may be German Aircraft homing signal. No bearings. (D.D.I.C. 1000/5 to C.in C. H.F. and D.6.)
SALADIN.	An Air attack is imminent. (SALADIN, 1058/5).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

LEEDS CITY (Bombed 26/2).	If ship is seaworthy proceed to Rothesay Bay. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0837/5).
Orkneys.	Help 080° Dunnet Head 36. (North Coates, 1430/5).
Convoy F.N.Odd.	Fighter aircraft has been sent to the assistance of Convoy NUMERAL. (Rosyth W/T 1431/5).
Cardiff bombed.	Attack on Cardiff carried out by about 10(aircraft, between 2024/4 and 0045/5. Dive bombing with engines off at about 10,000 ft. incendiary and H.E's from 50 to 250 kgs. but few flares used. Attacking from south, leading aircraft were deflected to westward by A.A.fire and dropped flares and incendiaries at Leckwith (N.W. Penarth) which reduced effectiveness of the raid. Railway Station and few houses in Penarth damaged. Little damage in Cardiff docks, but some damage to dockwalls, Nos.1 and 2 docks at Mountstuart Dry Docks Ltd. Civilian casualties. No naval casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1605/5).
ANCHISES. (Bombed 27/2).	Following signal has been passed by aircraft. From REPULSE to C.in C. W.A. ASSINIBOINE has picked up thirteen survivors from ANCHISES. 1345/5. (C.in C. W.A. 1826/5).
Convoy E.N.Odd.	Fighter protection has been despatched to odd numbered E.N.Convoy. (Lyness, 1852/5).

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Cardiff.	My 0007/4. Ships not fitted with I.C. engines may now enter and leave Cardiff. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1100/5).
Operation Z.M.E.22.	To be carried out on night of 6/3 or as soon after as practicable. Particulars. (D.O.D.(H) 1215/5).
A/C Minelaying in Thames Estuary.	Summary of Enemy Aircraft activities in Thames Estuary for night of 4/5 March. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness, 1223/5).
Sweep in Harwich Area.	Details. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1639/5).
Bristol Channel.	At 1654/4 one Mine detonated by S.A.Gear. Details. (N.O.I.C. Swansea, 1715/5). Instructions for ships entering or leaving Bristol Channel. (D.T.D. 2313/5).
Harwich.	One Green Mine detonated at 1510/5. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1846/5).
RUTH, ANGLIAN COAST. damaged.	Auxiliary motor Schooner RUTH 320 tons, Wooden hull, mined in 009° Bar L.V. 2 cables; and M.V. ANGLIAN COAST 594 tons mined in 075° Bar L.V. 2 cables. Both at 1815/4. Slight damage in both vessels in engine room. Both now in harbour, ANGLIAN COAST having returned under own power. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1848/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Liverpool.	Mine report to 1800/5. 5 detonated by S.A.Gear, 2 detonated by ships, and one spontaneous detonation. Particulars. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1859/5).
Plymouth. LUDA LORD, (M/S Trawler) damaged.	One acoustic mine detonated by S.A.Gear at 0826/5 in 007° Breakwater Fort 7 cables (approx). LUDA LORD damaged although gear appeared in perfect order. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1907/5).
Medway. SILVERSTONE (Tug) and Barge destroyed.	At 1530 today explosion occurred, believed due to ground mine, in Medway three miles above Rochester Bridge with following results. Diesel tug SILVERSTONE and Petrol Barge completely disintegrated, crew of eight missing. Oil Fuel barge salved after fire extinguished, Paraffin barge burnt out and sunk. (C.in C. Nore, 2154/5).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Convoy.	W/T.I. suggests movements of a convoy northwards from the Bight commencing shortly. (D.D.I.C. 1912/5).
E/Boats.	W.T.I. suggest E/Boat activity in Southern North Sea tonight. (D.D.I.C. 1949/5).

MOST SECRET.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

Freetown bunkers.

Ships proceeding in convoy from Freetown to U.K. west coast ports require bunkers for a voyage of 4,000 miles at a speed of 7 to 8 knots plus at least 6 days margin at that speed. Masters of ships loading cargo for U.K. to be warned accordingly. (D.T.D. 1030/5 to C.in C's).

GOONAWARRA.

Swedish motor ship, due to leave here at dawn/7. (Consul Gottenburg, 1115/5 to D.N.I.)

Trade with Sweden.

Resumption.
(The Times, 6/3/41).

Air Attacks Southern Irish Sea.

My 1850/3. To enable air escort, if available, to be provided intend to sail signals and reports of sailings are to be repeated to C.in C. Plymouth.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1138/5 to N.C.S.O's).

M/V's with Bofors Guns.

Certain M/V's sailing in convoy are being equipped with Bofors guns manned by A/A personnel. Following rules for opening fire at sea accepted for such vessels only. (1) Any A/C clearly recognised to be hostile is to be engaged. (2) Any A/C not recognised as friendly which approaches within 1500 yards of a ship may be engaged. Vitally important that once an unidentified A/C is within this range there should be no hesitation in opening fire.
(Air Ministry, 1245/5 to Bomber, Fighter etc., Commands).

Burning of Navigation Lights.

Proposed instructions for Merchant ships in Area 1 proceeding independently in Western Approaches.
Request your remarks.
(D.T.D. 1718/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

General.
(Contd.)

COLLEGIAN. Was re-routed at 1431/4 but first intimation of this received by C.in C. W.A. by telephone at 1410/5. As a result two Hudsons of 18 group carrying out Sorties in a fruitless search. (C.in C. W.A. 1837/5 to Admty). Your 1837/5, this omission was due to an oversight. (D.T.D. 2312/5).

Coastal
Convoys.

E.N.81. 0100/5, escorts, 18 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0211/5). List (0212/5 amended 1046/5 12 from Methil not sailed, 2 additional from Aberdeen. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1215/5 to PIROUETTE, GAVOTTE) 2 from Aberdeen not sailed. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1528/5 C.in C. Rosyth, 1725/5.)

F.S.26. E.T.A. Sherringham Buoy (ATHERSTONE, 0225/5). To proceed by Q.X.172 (C.in C. Nore, 0430/5) Instructions to ATHERSTONE. (C.in C. Nore, 1430/5). Position, 11 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 2215/5).

7 M/V's. "Chain" arrived less DOROTHY ROSE. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 0911/5).

F.S.27. 33 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0951/5). Sunderland ships returning, missed convoy (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0952/5). 2 ships. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1052/5) No ships from Sunderland. (C.in C. Rosyth 1117/5 to VERSATILE) Patrol O to join. (C.in C. Nore, 1246/5, 2307/5). Position. (VERSATILE, 2115/5). Proceeding. (VERSATILE, 2315/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.8.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.23. 2 Absentees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0953/5). Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1131/5). Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1910/5).

W.N.U.94. 1330/5 unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1001/5). Sailed 1350/5, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1435/5, 1500/5).

F.N.25. EGLINTON additional escort. (C.in C.Nore, 1002/5). Sailed 0830/5, 41 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1122/5). Patrol O to accompany. (C.in C. Nore, 1246/5, 2307/5). List. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1328/5). Ships from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1744/5). Orders to EGLINTON. (C.in C. Nore, 2111/5). Numbers joining from Humber. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2205/5 to MEYNELL).

W.N.93. Position. (A.C.O.S. 1035/5). E.T.A. (LADY ROSEMARY 1435/5 to C.in C. Rosyth). A/C Patrol. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1459/5 to JASON).

F.N.22. Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1204/5
F.N.26. F.N.26. EDWARDIAN additional escort under orders of VERSATILE. (Cdre. i/c Sheerness 1232/5).

C.E.27. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1300/5).

5 M/Vs. Sailing 1730/6. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth, 1501/5).

E.N.82.)
W.N.95.) HASTINGS additional A/A escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1611/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.S.28. Sailed 1400/5. 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1615/5) Numbers joining from Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1700/5 to WALLACE) List. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1732/5). 2 from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1747/5) EGLINTON a ditional escort. (C.in C. Nore, 2111/5). 2 from Humber. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2204/5).

W.N.95. A/S escort sailed. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1800/5).

"Watch". Sailed, additions, escort. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth, 1838/5).

"Warrant". Sailed, escort. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1931/5).

8 M/Vs. Sailed. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1933/5).

E.N.80. Arrived, 1 exception. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1950/5). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 2355/5).

E.N.U.80. TIRADENTES (Norwegian) increased to full speed and left convoy. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 2035/5).

Codes. Amending his 1110/28. (C.in C. Plymouth 2158/5).

8 M/V's. "Range". E.T.D. 1900/6. Escorts. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 2224/5).

MOST SECRET.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

F.S.29.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Sailed 2300/5, 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2315/5). COTTESMORE and escort. (C.in C. Nore, 2356/5, 2358/5).

Ocean Convoys.

H.G.54. BROKE, WOLSEY and VANITY left for, from Londonderry. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0015/5).

S.L.S.65. 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 0937/5). Destination changed. (C.In C. W.A. 0950/5).

S.C.23. Deletion from 1856/4. (C.in C. W.A. 0945/5 to AMBUSCADE ect.)

O.B.M. 295. 1800/7, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1302/5).

B.H.X.114. List. (Navy Control, Bermuda, 1201/5).

O.G.C. 55. 0100/8. 13. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1225/5).

H.X.113. Escorts. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 1330/5). Sailing telegram. (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1349/5).(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1821/5).

H.X.110. Your 1820/4. Amendments to list. (D.T.D. 1403/5 to C.in C. W.A.) 1 destination. (D.T.D. 1919/5). SILVER LARCH and escort group to meet. (F.O.Iceland, 1713/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X.115. and later H.X.dates.	Following alterations made on account of change in outward sailings. R/V date for H.X.115 will be put forward to 29/3 instead of 27/3, thereafter odd-numbered H.X.convoys will sail at 10 day intervals e.g. H.X.117 R/V date 8/4. R/V dates for even-numbered H.X.Convoys and all SC.Convoys will be unaltered. (D.T.D. 1405/5).
O.B.293.	Orders for disposal of escort. (C.in C. W.A. 1507/5 to WOLVERINE, etc.)
H.X.111.	Orders to escort to meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1507/5 to WOLVERINE, BEVERLEY etc.) 1 Destination altered. (D.T.D. 1645/5 to AURANIA) Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1745/5 to WOLVERINE, BEVERLEY etc.) VERITY to meet. (C.in C. W.A. 2142/5).
O.B.294.	Commodore in MARWARRI returning, defective D/G. (WITCH 1531/5 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool). Suggest he pick up convoy in PERIWINKLE or MONTGOMERY. (WANDERER 1544/5) CLAN RANALD to take over duty Commodore. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1641/5). Sailed, 1700/5, 17 ships. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1726/5). List. (1727/5). Escorts left. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1734/5). MARWARRI sailed to join. (N.C.O.S.Mersey 1801/5).
O.B.O.294.	0830/6, escort PRIMROSE, 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1728/5).
H.X.109.	3 arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1805/5). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2043/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

S.L.66. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D. T.D. 2012/5).

S.L.65. Norwegian MORGENEN 180 miles ahead, investigate. (C.in C. W.A. 2211/5 to N.O.I.C. Barry).

Military Convoys.

REPULSE, FURIOUS, ALCANTARA. Sailed REPULSE FURIOUS ALCANTARA OTTAWA ASSINIBOINE CHURCHILL in accordance with Admty. 2247/28/2, and 1329/4/3. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0030/5).

VANSITTART, LANCASTER. CHARLESTOWN. VANSITTART, LANCASTER, CHARLESTOWN sailed for special convoy. (Capt: D. Londonderry 0600/5).

AUSONIA, MONTCLARE. Admty. 1333/1. Orders. (F.O.C.N.P., 1542/5 to F.O.Iceland).

W.S.7. All messages referring to Convoy W.S.7 are to be in cypher even if sent by T/P. (D.N.I. 1926/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

WIVERN.	My 2340. WIVERN has not yet cleared her propeller. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0800/5). My 2340/4. WIVERN sailed. Estimate she will contact convoy daylight/6. (Capt: D. Londonderry, 1702/5).
CITY OF CALCUTTA.	Met at 0400. Our p.c. and s. 256° C.W.H. 30 180° 17 knots. Request further instructions. (HURRICANE, 0825/5).
BOTWEY.	(British 5106 tons). Ashore Loch Ewe. Believed undamaged. Hope to refloat on today's tide. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1000/5). My 1000/5. BOTWEY refloated apparently undamaged. Will be sailed for Belfast in E.N.81. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1502/5).
NORINA. (Boom Defence Vessel).	My 1115/2. NORDINA returned Oban owing to defects. Intend sailing for Aultbea 0730/6. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1000/5).
MARTINI.	(Dutch 362 tons). Foundered as result of collision with tanker SEPIA at 2353/3 in 49°53'N., 04° 58'30" W. Crew picked up by SEPIA and landed Plymouth. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1011/5).
ROEBUCK.	(Balloon Barrage Vessel) Sustained serious damage to bows in collision with S.S. SKJOLD. Collision bulkhead intact. Estimated time to repair damage about six weeks. (F.O.I.C. Southampton, 1011/5).
TAKU.	If ENCHANTRESS is making good progress with TAKU with tug functioning, well and good, but if not, break W/T silence after dark tonight Wednesday, reporting briefly situation. (C.in C. W.A. 1216/5 to ENCHANTRESS).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

All present but tow parted. Expected to pass again in daylight. My position is 056° 03'N., 012° 40'W.
(ENCHANTRESS 2335/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

DUNVEGAN.

(British 632 tons). Left Liverpool for Fairlie on 3/3. Now more than 24 hours overdue. Request urgent steps to locate this ship which has been fitted out as a floating laboratory and is of utmost importance to this establishment.
She may be adrift with an engine defect.
(C.A/S E.E. 1646/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Request immediate information if anything is known of this vessel.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1907/5).

CORFIELD.

CORFIELD at anchor damaged by S.S. CORMEAD. Estimated time for repairs one week.
(F.O.I.C. London, 1850/5).

FINA.

(Panamanian, 1387 tons).
Received following message from aircraft.
From M/V FINA. I have sprung a leak and require immediate assistance, message ends.
(Liverpool W/T 2053/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

OLYMPUS.

P.c. and s. 039° 22'N., 011° 00'W., 180° ten knots. E.T.A. R/V 0700/7. (OLYMPUS, 0700/5 to Capt: S.8).

MIRROR Cables.

Departure 0530 cable ship MIRROR escorted by LEYLAND to resume operations on cables near Gibraltar. (S.O.(I) Gib., 0850/5 to Admty).

ANNA BERG boarded by alleged A.M.C.

Finnish steamer ANNA BERG reports being boarded by believed British A.M.C. in 35.44 N., 12.49 W. at 0830/28, name unknown, who removed route orders from Funchal and gave new identification signals. (N.A.Lisbon,n 1117/5 to Admty).

REPULSE
FURIOUS
DRAGON.

Admty. 2144/15/2. Orders to REPULSE and FURIOUS after operation "Tender". REPULSE not to accompany FURIOUS for operation "Summer", DRAGON to be available. Destroyer escort. (D.O.D.(F) 1303/5 to F.O.C.N.A. C.in C. S.A.) See Operations Volume.

BIJOU BIHEN.

French ketch, 65 tons, on passage to Cape Blanco, W.Africa, was intercepted by CORINTHIAN about 200 miles W.S.W. of Casablanca on 5/3 and sent to Gibraltarr (D.S. 548 6/3). D.O.R. 6/3).

PANDORA
O.23.
OLYMPUS.

Position of submarine 1200/6 and movements for next 24 hours PANDORA with H.G.55, O.23 p.c. and s 039° 50'N., 019° 20'W. 134° 7 knots, position very approx. OLYMPUS 036° 30'N., 009° 00'W. proceeding Gibraltar may be diving by day. (F.O.C.N.A. 1311/5 to N.A.Station).

MOST SECRET.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

OLYMPUS, SCOTTISH.	Your 0700/5 acknowledge. Adjust speed to pass through position F at 0700/6 and 350 Cape Spartel 10 at 0700/7 thence proceeding unescorted to Gibraltar. Report p.c. and s. if unable to comply within one hour of time stated. Trawler SCOTTISH leaving Gibraltar 0900/6 for patrol off Lisbon is routed North of Station. (Capt: S.8. 1330/5 to OLYMPUS).
A/C Squadrons.	Your 1959/28/2. 800 Sqdn., is required as striking force in FURIOUS. "Skuas" are in any case considered too slow for use against German aircraft. (D.N.A.D. 1535/5 to S.O.Force H).
REPULSE escort.	A.M.2247/28. FEARLESS, FORESIGHT, FORTUNE, FOXHOUND, DUNCAN will be sailed to R/V with you during daylight 9/3 and will pass through position 037° 20'N., 014° 37'W. at 0800Z/-1/9 steering 308°. (F.O.C.N.A. 1704/5 to REPULSE).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DELHI — C.in C. S.A. 1141/24/2 and C.in C. E.I. 0922/26/2.
DELHI's programme will be as follows (to Singapore).
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0940Z/5).

PERSEUS — Overdue shipping PERSEUS due Durban 1/3 from U.K. not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1005B/5).

MARPESSA — Overdue shipping Dutch MARPESSA due Capetown 1/3 from Singapore not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1006/5) (Cancelled 0946/6).

STRATHALLAN — Request reply to my 1801/21 (Master of STRATHALLAN to be asked if he was near position 19.40 N. 18.25 W. because of report of suspicious vessel by FRIESLAND).
(C.in C. S.A., 1026/5 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

W.S.6 B. MAURITIUS — Arrival 0900/5 MAURITIUS escorting WS 6B.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1035/5, to Admty.).

ABGARA, suspicious master. — Captain of friendly ship ABGARA is anti-British and an obstructionist.
Suggest he be removed on arrival in Canada.
(N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1149/5, to Admty.).

Enemy M.V's. — Italian ships at Teneriffe painting upper work grey and crews talk of sailing in March. A.2 report states vessels will make for Dakar. German RUDOLF ALBRECHT at Teneriffe is loading 200 tons extra bunkers. A.2 report states vessel apparently being fitted as supply and prison ship for raider and that Master has been instructed to be ready to sail by 5/3.
(C.in C. S.A. 1311N/5, to S.A. Sqdn.).

/ Falkland Islands. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Falkland Islands.	Defences, (R.A. S.A.D., 1342Z/5 to C.in C. S.A.). See Operations Volume.
HIGHLAND BRIGADE, R.A.F. personnel.	Re onward passage Takoradi. (C.in C. S.A. 1533/5, to D. of S.T.).
Italian a/c from Natal.	Informed by Customs Officer, Italian a/c leaving dawn/6 with 20 kilos platinum in two cases aboard bought in Chile. (V. Consul, Natal, 1650/5, to Admty.).
THUNDERBOLT attacked by CANTON, 24/2.	Your 1301/24/2 and your 1401/24/2 to CANTON. Was THUNDERBOLT damaged in encounter? (C.in C. S.A., 1707Z/5 to C.in C. W.A.).
CITY OF VENICE route.	Your 1907/18, two positions M were given CITY OF VENICE causing confusion in re-routeing. My 1858/19/1, letters S T U V W are to be used for special positions. (D.T.D., 1713/5 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).
CITY OF PARIS	A.T. 2332/4 para.2. Sailing orders of CITY OF PARIS state that she is to request to leave escort when in 15° W. off Sierra Leone and if granted is to proceed (route), to Capetown. Ship will not call at Freetown unless circumstances require. (D.O.D.(F) 2310/5 to C.in C. S.A.).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

M.N.B.D.O.	Has sailed in W.S.6 for M.E. Composition, etc, ~~speed~~ by Admty. (War Office, 0250/5 to C.in C. M.E.)
Suez Canal Nets.	Admty.1752/1. Only method which will quickly and definitely fix position of mines is nets suggested in my 1145/3. Proposals. (C.in C. Med. 0931/5 to Admty.) (Original in Lion copy only).
Swordfish operation. Tripoli.	10 Swordfish aircraft will leave Malta dusk tonight to lay "CUCUMBERS" off Tripoli (Libya) in addition to bombing harbour. (Cmdr.S.1. 1024/5 to UPHOLDER)
ROVER.	N.O.I.C. Port Said 1127/4 and my 1156/4. Intend to sail ROVER 1200/8 to arrive Port Said 1200/9. (Capt.S.1. 1025/5 to C.in C. Med:)
Bulgaria.	Diplomatic relations with Bulgaria have been broken off. (Hd. of M. 1142/5 to C. in C. Med:)
Suez Canal Nets.	Your 0545Z/3 Net can be made in India. Request anticipated rate of production and estimate of cost and brief specification of proposed net. (C. in C. Med: 1201/5 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)
Air Report.	Operational Summary No.268 up to 1200 hours 5/3/41.
Suez Canal mined.	Night 3/4. 5 or 6 enemy aircraft believed JU.88's dropped 10 or 12 mines in Suez Canal. 3 exploded on bank, remainder unexploded in Canal. No damage reported.

/Italian

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (contd:)

Italian Warships bombed.

Greece. 4/3. Acting on reconnaissance information 14 Blenheims escorted by 10 Hurricanes and 18 Gladiators attacked 6 Italian Warships bombarding coast road near Himare (South of Valona). Bombs fell around ships but no direct hits. Our fighters engaged enemy force of approx. 24 G.50's and CR.42's escorting warships destroying 5 G.50's and 3 CR.42's and probably destroying 2 G.50's and 1 CR.42. 1 Hurricane was destroyed and another missing. All our bombers returned safely.
(H.Q.,R.A.F., M.E., 1224/5).

Italian Cruiser sunk by UPRIGHT, 25/2.

Capt.(S) 1 1555/27/2 not to Admiralty. After careful investigation of eyewitness report I am definitely of opinion that warship hit was a CONDOTTIERI "A" Class Cruiser and was sunk. Mark VIII torpedo hit between A and B turrets.

Reasons that support supposition are as follows.
(V.A.Malta. 1319/5 to C.in C. Med:)

UPHOLDER
UTMOST
TRUANT
UPRIGHT

UTMOST, TRUANT, UPRIGHT leave Malta p.m./5 as follows.

You are not to (? contact) any submarine encountered at night in your sector nor approach within two miles of boundary between sector Y and Z.
(Cmdr.S.1. 1321/5, to UPHOLDER).

Italian Ships Sunk.

Your 1141/3 (no trace in W.R.) 21 have been sunk. List of dates, s/m's concerned, and particulars of targets.
(Capt.S.1, 1541/4 to F.O.S. recd.1352/5)
See Special Summaries Folder.

/ SICILIA

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (contd:)

SICILIA Class transport sunk.	URSULA reports on 22/2 sighting one transport and one merchant vessel in escort of three GENERALE Class torpedo boats and air escort. Deeply laden transport of SICILIA Class 9600 tons was hit with one torpedo and 40 minutes later was seen with deck awash and sinking on an even keel. URSULA heavily counter attacked but undamaged. Considered ship was carrying troops. URSULA reports much air activity day and night. Position of sinking not yet received but submarine was operating close to West of Tripoli. Consider policy of issuing these successes should continue. (C. in C. Med: 1353/5).
M.V. Crews Unsatisfactory.	Crew of M/Ship in Eastern Mediterranean giving considerable trouble. These are mainly Chinese and Indian or from German occupied countries. Satisfactory solution is British crews for transports and store ships which have to proceed to Malta or other ports where German air activity is great. (C. in C. Med: 1455/5 to Admty.)
Malta Air Raids.	Combined Services Report Malta up to 1600/5. All times G.M.T. 0506 to 0600 1 HE.111 approached the Island from NW at low altitude. Machine gunned Sunderland at moorings in St. Paul's Bay causing slight damage. Also dropped bombs some distance out to sea off Delimara. Fighters up no results. 1505 to 1600 large formations of enemy aircraft bombers and fighters raided island. Hal Far dive bombed, considerable damage, Kalafrana some damage. Communications cut. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1615/5).

/Swordfish

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd:)

Swordfish Flight.	Proposed operations for special Swordfish flight (not required at Massawa). (Air Min,1745/5 to A.O.C.in C. M.E.) See Mediterranean Volume.
Suez Canal Mines.	Situation 2000/5. Two mines exploded by aircraft at Km. 20 and 38.1. One mine exploded by LL sweeper at Km. 66.4. One mine located by divers at Km. 140.7 and will be destroyed by T.N.T. charge. Traffic between Lake Timsah and Great Bitter Lake has been resumed. Intend to endeavour to dispose of mines at Km. 140.2 laid on 18/2 by a series of depth charges and to resume traffic between Great Bitter Lake and Suez probably P.M./ 6. Probably still five unexploded mines between Lake Timsah and Port Said. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1953/5 to Admty. etc.)
Suez Canal Nets.	1752/1 and your 1129/25/2 and 1145/3. Necessary experiments with nets approved but results should be reported for Adty. consideration before full scheme is proceeded with. (V.S.N.S.2007/5 to C.in C. Med:)
MALLORCA.	My 1233/3. MALLORCA leaving Valencia 3/3 for Italy. Sailing cancelled at last moment by Spanish Govt. for political reasons. (Madrid, 2057/5 to Admty.)
Malta Air Raid 28/2.	C.A.F.O 1170/40. (a) Valetta Harbours and approaches 0515/28. About 10 enemy aircraft, type unknown approached the Island from different directions. Mines dropped over the harbour from heights varying from 300 to 1000 feet. SULTAN engaged one aircraft with .5 and L.G. One probable. 2 fell in Valetta one exploded in air. Considerable damage some casualties. (V.A. Malta, 2204/5 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

German Seamen in India.	Please say whether any and if affirmative how many German merchant seamen are interned at Ahmednagar. (W.O., 0103/5 [illegible] C. in C. India).
CITY OF DURBAN CAPE SABLE. BOTLEA. KING GRUFFYD.	Have been commissioned as A.M.C's and have joined East Indies Station. They are armed with 4" guns, torpedoes and Depth charges. CITY OF DURBAN and CAPE SABLE are fitted with Asdics. Speeds. (D.O.D.(F) 0118/5 to E.I. and S.A. Stations). Admty 2116/2. Decided that CITY OF DURBAN CAPE SABLE, BOTLEA and KING GRUFFYD are to join C. in C. E.Indies, who is to take them under his orders. No longer desired to keep guns of these ships concealed except as may be necessary for sea-worthiness. (D.O.D.(F) 0119/5 to C. in C.E.I).
U.S.9.	Arrival 1015Z/4 AUCKLAND, departure SYVERN, KOS 19, KOS 21, KOS 23 for U.S.9. (N.O.I.C. Aden 033025 to Admty etc).
SHROPSHIRE.	Escorting VILLE DE STRASBOURG (C. in C. E.I. 0620, 0642/5) (See French Merchant Ships).
Deterrent to Scuttling.	When enemy merchant ships are intercepted by aircraft, a strong deterrent to scuttling is likely to be effected by rendering boats at the davits unseaworthy with machine gun fire. This must be attempted only if the boats are empty and personnel in merchant ships are not endangered unduly. It should be possible to give warning burst of fire to induce personnel to take cover. (C. in C. E.I. 0638/5 to E.I. Sqn).
COBURG and KETTY BROVIG. sunk 4/3.	My 1259 and 1400/4 Tanker was ex Norwegian KETTY BROVIG not ATHELKING. CANBERRA 2005/4 i[illegible] being passed to addressees of this message. (C. in C. E.I. 0710Z/5 to A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. etc) See also 1750/5.
DORSETSHIRE.	My 0510/28 and Admty 1649/2. On completion of fuelling at Seychelles DORSETSHIRE is to proceed to Simonstown via Mozambique Channel. Self refit will be carried out on arrival. (C. in C. E.I. 0734Z/5 to DORSETSHIRE)

/Norwegian seamen.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (contd).

Norwegian seamen at Kismayu.	Your 2146/28/2. All passengers incapacitated seamen and Norwegians from TIRANNA and TALLEYRAND sailed in TIRANNA. My 0810/1 para. B refers. (C. in C. E.I. 0810/5 to Admty).
Derelict large wooden boat.	Reported in 12° 51' N. 58° 15' E. on 24/2. (C. in C. E.I. 12062/5).
CANBERRA. LEANDER.	My 0744/3. Cancel para 3. CANBERRA and LEANDER are to leave the area on 6/3, having search for as long as possible that day, and proceed to search Nazareth Bank and Cargados Carakos area on 7/3 and then proceed to Mauritius to arrive 8/3. (C. in C.E.I. 1210/5 to Force V., N.O.I.C. Mauritius).
Mogadiscio Merchant Service Captives, raider's record.	Your 1245/28/2. From interrogation of prisoners the replies to your questions are. 1. For attacks etc. see my 0810/1. For nominal list of prisoners see my 1840/3 1842/3. 2. Yes. 3. Raider was ATLANTIS F.E.C.B. No. 81. Full speed 19 knots cruising speed 6 to 8 knots. Broadside director controlled. After gun probably 7.9. Captain Rogge efficient cautious, fighting if cornered and intends to beat raider WOLF's record of 420 days at sea. Left Germany 20/3 procedure one week slow hunting, two weeks conditioning. Periodically overhauls alternate engines fully taking two weeks and scraping waterline maximum speed then 8 knots, gunnery good, vulnerable points between real funnel and Samson posts abaft bridge and A.A. control platform abaft funnel. Usual disguises P. and O. colouring with dummy A/S stem gun or as Japanese freighter. Approaches leisurely by day fast by night. Aircraft reported flown as routine on Fridays if weather favourable.

/5.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Mogadiscio Merchant Service Captives, raider's record. (contd).	5.No bases Indian Ocean but overhauled engines on lat. 31° S. between 65° E. and 80°. 6.Several W/T installations. One set below after Samson posts near waterline. (A) (B) and (C) communicated with BRITISH COMMANDER raider. 7. No supply ships or tankers, Relidd on victims for fuel. 8. None except that another was operating Indian Ocean. Apparently none shipping intelligence excellent. CITY OF BAGHDAD and RMMEL capture prophesied two days previously on alteration course position suspicion strong that EIRANNA and TALLEYRAND taken this way, consider codes in some British ships were captured. Note ATHELKING was machine gunned and near missed by bomb. My 0810/1 refers. (C. in C. E.I. 1220Z/5 to Admty).
CAPE SABLE BOTLEA.	Admty 2116/2 and my 0602/3. May I use CAPE SABLE and BOTLEA as proposed? They will be ready to sail p.m/6 and 12/3 respectively and I would like to get them to the Red Sea as soon as possible. (C. in C. E.I. 1254Z/5 to Admty).
Massawa targets.	Decided that in attacks on Massawa floating dock should no longer be an objective as hoped this may be of use to us. Same applies to merchant shipping as far as is possible. Air Ministry is issuing similar instructions. (D.O.D.(F) 1631/5 to C. in C. E.I) (Air. Min., 1744/5 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E).
Air Operations.	Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T./5 2 Blenheim IV provided fighter escorts to convoy and two made A/S sweeps. Other operations abandoned due weather. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1636/5).
COBURG. KETTY BROVIG.	My 2005Z/4, Your 0800Z/5. Main items of intelligence. KETTY BROVIG captured 2/2 in 04.30 S., 50° E. Met COBURG 2/3 near position where sunk. Prisoners (numbers) in LEANDER and CANBERRA. (CANBERRA 1750Z/5 to C. in C.E.I) Original in Lion copy only.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.3.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

M.T.B's. Malaya tactical appreciation, ap. I para 7. Request I may be informed if there is any prospect of me getting M.TBs. asked for. The need for them is certainly considerably more now than it was last October. (C. in C. China 0903Z/5 to Admty).

America & West Indies.

PRINS WILLEM II. My 2026/3 Dutch PRINS-WILLEM II arrived Demerara 4th. (S.O.1. Kingston 0014/5).

IMPERIAL MONARCH. Colon reports British ship IMPERIAL MONARCH struck bank and beached in Panama Canal, no report on damage yet. (S.O.I Kingston, 0808/5).

HARBERTON. Br. s.s. HARBERTON arrived Halifax 4/3 with survivors from torpedoed ships. Although ship is bound Sierra Leone, M. of Shipping suggest that having arrived in Canada she should be loaded here. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1047/5 to Admty).

German seamen. Request if German Merchant seamen understood to have been interned in Newfoundland have been transferred to Canada. To enable us to show courtesy to Swiss Legation also say how many are held by you as direct captors as distinct from agents for U.K. Govt. (W.O. 1620/5 to C.G.S. Ottawa).

Tankers. My 1607/29/1. Although tanker situation may improve later, now imperative that any delay to loading or sailing shall be reported immediately to Admiralty giving (a) reason (b) probable sailing date. Tankers for whom Admiralty have given specific destinations Scapa or Clyde or a port abroad are to be sailed without waiting for d.g. repairs. Admiralty oilers whose destinations are not known should be routed to convoy assembly port for orders. 4. Admty 1913/14/1, 1856/15/2, 1831/1/3 are cancelled. (D.T.D. 1734/5 to S.N.O. Curacao, N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

/T.C.10.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

T.C.10.	My 1601/18/2. Can any forecast of possible date of T.C. ten now be given. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1814/5 to Admty).
DIOMEDE.	To patrol to intercept Italian FELLA (C. in C. A.W.I. 2202/5) See Italian Merchant Ships).

Australia.

Pocket Battleship possibly going Far East.	C. in C. China's 0251/27/2. It seems possible that Pocket Battleship may be proceeding to Far East by way of Timor Sea and assuming a speed of advance of 15 knots she would pass through that area between 7/3 and 9/3. Request consideration to air search of Timor Sea area from 6/3 to 10/3 inclusive. (D.O.D.(F) 0115/5 to A.C.N.B). Your 0115/5 air search from 6/3 to 10/3 inclusive will be arranged. (A.C.N.B. 1356Z/5 to Admty).
HOBART flag.	Flag of F.O.C. Australian Sqn. transferred to HOBART 5/3. (A.C.N.B. 1336Z/5).
Australian minesweeper.	Asking whether Australian Minesweeper can proceed between Colombo and Aden during Monsoon season and if so by what route. (A.C.N.B. 1426/5).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

RUDOLF ALBRECHT. — Your 1227/4 has been passed to C. in C. S.A. (D.S.O. 0008/5 to F.O.C.N.A).

ATLAS, SPARTA, LISBOA. — Arrived 4/3. (Consul, Valencia, 2400/5) (D.S. 549).

SPEZIA. — Left Valencia 4/3 for Marseilles (D.S. 549).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

VILLE DE STRASBOURG. — My 1742/3 and 1744/3. On relief by RANCHI SHROPSHIRE is to proceed to Durban so as to arrive 6/3. After embarking stores and if necessary fuelling. SHROPSHIRE is to proceed Simonstown with moderate despatch. RANCHI is to escort VILLE DE STRASBOURG to Durban. (C. in C. E.I. 0620Z/5).
Your2027/2. Regret no escort available except SHROPSHIRE whose arrival at Simonstown for refit most undesirable to delay further. Suggest armed guard or steaming crew be insisted upon if ship cannot be dealt with at Durban and you have no escort available. (C. in C. E.I. 0642Z/5 to C. in C. S.A).
C. in C. E.I. 0642/5 no difficulty anticipated in dealing with ship at Durban as already done with SONTAY. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1859/5).
C. in C. E.I. 0642Z/5. No escort available. After ship has arrived at Durban, if you have no local vessels for escort, arrange armed guard and steaming party if required to take ship to Simonstown. (C. in C. S.A. 2045N/5 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

BELAIN DESNAMBUC WINNIPEG. — My 1246/2. Unknown ship was possibly French s.s. BELAIN DESNAMBUC. French WINNIPEG St. Thomas (Virgin Is) 28/2 Casablance. (F.O.C.N.A. 1146/5 to N.A. Stn).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LIGURIA. — Previously rumoured sunk early January when conveying troops to Albania, now stated by Italian prisoners in Greek hands to have had 1,500 Alpine troops on board, most of whom were drowned. (D.S. 549).

FIRENZI. — Acknowledged by Popolo D'Italia to have been sunk with a loss of 200 drowned between November and February (D.S. 549).

FELLA. — Charge d'Affaires San Jose reports activities of FELLA indicating preparing to sail. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1721/5 to Admty etc).
Proceed forthwith to establish patrol off Gulf of Nicoya Costa Rica to intercept FELLA reported preparing to sail. S.O.(I) Callao pass to DIOMEDE and PRINCE HENRY. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2202/5 to DIOMEDE).

Reporting Officer.

FRISCO. — Ceara reports Italian Tanker FRISCO preparing to leave for Natal. Captain of Port Ceara has full knowledge of this proposed voyage. (Ends≠ I have no previous information. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1856/5 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0117.) 0050.)	56.30 N., 15° W. Indefinite position.	D.S. 547, 5/3.
0649.	Canaries area. Very Indefinite position.	
2142.	Possibly 58° - 60° N, W. of 20° W. very indefinite.	D.S. 548 6/3.
2108.	47° - 49° N., 10° - 13° W. position indefinite.	
1000/1.	36° N., 6.30 W., between C. Trafalgar and Cadiz, EMPIRE STRAIT heard Reed horn during fog. (B.5) (D.S. 548, 6/3).	
Canary Is.	D/F Bearing indicates U-Boat in vicinity of Canary Island. (F.O.C.N.A. 1109/5 to N.A. Stn).	
Freetown Area.	Your 1755/4. My 1408/3 as sent read one S.W. of Freetown. Estimate was based on report by CLAN OGILVY and attack by CLEMATIS 1900/23. Your 1046/3 was received later and accordingly my 1346/4 did not estimate any U/B in Freetown area. (D.D.I.C. 1338/5 to C. in C. S.A).	
Estimated U/B dispositions.	D.D.I.C. 1339/5.	

Submarines Attacked.

1016	Am over enemy submarine in position 53.36 N., 16.42 W. Sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (Duty "B" 32 Sqdn., T.O.R. 1432/5). Aircraft over submarine 53.36 N. 16.42 W. at 1016/5. (C. in C. W.A. 1157/5 to DIDO PEGASUS VANOC).

/1105.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.5.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. (contd).

1105. Aircraft attacked another submarine 53.55 N., 15.50 W. at 1105 (C. in C. W.A. 1226/5 to DIDO, PEGASUS, VANOC.).
(D.S. 548 gives position as 53.48 N., 16.16 W and states A/C B/10 dropped 2 d/c's, A/C K/502 dropped 1 d/c at head of oil patch left by U/B after submerging).
Aircraft have attacked submarine in (positions) at 1105/5 and 1016/5 Carry out A/S sweep through these positions on your way to meet H.G. 54. (C. in C. W.A. 1242/5 to SALADIN, BROKE).

MOST SECRET.

6.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Two divisions of A.A.ships are being based at Londonderry for A.A. protection of convoys.

TAKU.

TAKU, which reported herself disabled on 27/2 was sighted by aircraft search this afternoon, about 160 miles N.W. of Malin Head. ENCHANTRESS was towing her, but the tow parted yesterday.

U/Boat Campaign.

CLAN MACARTHUR reported that she was being gunned 150 miles S.W. of Iceland at 0735 today. CAPE COMORIN reported being fired at in the N.W. Approaches at 2145 today. Special measures by C.in C Western Approaches to anticipate an extreme effort by Germany to cripple shipping by U/Boats provide that the present proportion of harbour time to sea time will be slightly reduced, so that one group can be spared at a time to concentrate specially on U/Boat hunting.

8

Shipping in the South Irish Sea.

Owing to the aircraft menace which has developed within the last few days in the South Irish Sea, and in order to economise convoy escorts, C.in C. W.A. is adopting special measures for ships of 1600 tons and above.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.3.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

Bad weather restricted flying. A shipping protection R/C was flown in the St. Georges Channel throughout today. A patrol was flown in the Fair I. Channel and a R/C was made from Sógne Fiord to Stavanger. Special A/S escorts were provided for the nearer convoys in the N.W.Approaches. A patrol was flown twice along the coast of Brittany.

Enemy Air Activity.

Lowestoft was bombed today by one Dornier. No Naval damage occurred, though trawler EVESHAM in the harbour has an U.X.B. between decks.

Six bombs were dropped harmlessly in Folkestone harbour this afternoon.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft tonight was suspected between the Tyne and Flamborough Head, and between Afordness and Yarmouth.

MEXICO sunk.

Norwegian tanker MEXICO in Convoy F.S.27 was mined and sunk 18 miles E of Harwich this morning.

MOST SECRET.

6.3.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Contd.)

SUN VII sunk.	Tug SUN VII (Govt. Service) was sunk by a mine in the Thames Estuary this morning.
KERRYADO sunk.	KERRYADO (M/S Trawler) sunk off Newhaven this morning, it is believed by a floating mine.
	Cardiff was opened to ships with I.C. engines this morning. Restrictions in the Firth of Forth were removed this evening. The Tyne, Blyth and Sunderland were closed this evening.

Mediterranean.

	Rules have been agreed with H.Q. R.A.F. for engagements of unseen aircraft by H.M. ships at sea in the Eastern and Central Mediterranean.
Tunis.	The French Govt. having been notified H.M. ships and aircraft are to attack without warning any ship at night south of 35.46 N., whether within or outside Tunisian territorial waters.
ANFITRITE sunk.	GREYHOUND this morning sank the Italian U/Boat ANFITRITE which attacked the Aegean Convoy in the Kasos Straits, east of Crete.
Bosporus. ~~Suez Canal.~~ "Lustre" Force.	N.A. Ankara 1253/6 should be noted. C.-C. Med 1028/6 contains details of this movement.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.3.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

FORMIDABLE, escorted by 2 destroyers, left Port Sudan this morning and is due at Suez at 0600Z/7.

Enemy M/V's Massawa.

C.in C. East Indies considers that in view of the prospects of salvage if scuttled in harbour, it is better to induce enemy ships to remain at Massawa.

Australia.

~~The~~ cover the possibility of the pocket battleship from Indian Ocean having gone to the Tosman Sea, AUSTRALIA is being moved from E.Indies Station to the Fremantle Area.

MOST SECRET.

6. 3. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

M/L's at Newhaven. — Your 1650. It would be appreciated if the number of boats at Newhaven could be maintained at eight and M.L.125 and 128 retained until nearer the date of arrival of M.L. 143 and 144. (V.A. Dover 1002/6 to R.A.C.F.).

M/L's at Plymouth. — Your 1204/4. There is an urgent requirement for M.L's for escort and patrol duties in Western Channel and it would be appreciated if 1st. Divn. of 6th M.L.F. could be retained until Dartmouth and Falmouth Flotillas are complete. (C. in C. Plymouth 1332/6 to R.A.C.F.)

A/A ships based on Londonderry. — Cancel my 1939/30/1. The following A/A ships are to form 1st and 2nd A/A divisions based at Londonderry:-
1st. A/A Division. PHILANTE WESTON EGRET FLEETWOOD LONDONDERRY 2nd. A/A Division. WOOLSTON VICEROY WOOLSEY VIVIEN VALOROUS VANITY. 2. One or two A/A ships as circumstances permit are to be detailed for each mercantile convoy by N.O.I.C. Londonderry.
3. A/A ships are to join outbound convoy at Clyde R/V and are to proceed with corvettes to meet appropriate home bound convoy. They are to leave homebound convoy at North Channel and return to Londonderry. If North Channel is made during dark hours they are to leave convoy at dark before reaching North Channel.
4. First duty of A/A ships is A/A protection of convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1630/6.)

S/M's for A/S and ASV. Training in W.A. Command. — D. A/S. W. 1648/6.

Shipping in South Irish Sea. — Measures to be adopted to safeguard. (C. in C. W.A. 1705/6.) See Shipping.

/LA MELPOMENE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6. 3. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy Contd.

LA MELPOMENE. Will be based on Harwich and attached to A/S Striking Force. She is to be employed on the same duties as Corvettes but is not to be employed outside sheltered waters if warning of heavy gales is received. (C. in C. Nore 2250/6.)

Movements.

MATABELE. Proceed passing HOXA as requisite. R/V off Rattray Head at 1000 tomorrow with LONDON escorted by MASHONA and one destroyer from Nore Command. 2. On joining relieve destroyer from Nore Command and with MASHONA provide onward escort to Scapa. (R.A.D. HF. 1547/6 to MATABELE).

TUNA
LA MOQUEUSE. R.V. LA MOQUEUSE in 260° Trevose Head six miles at 0715/8th. (S.3. 1425/6 to TUNA.) Sailed LA MOQUEUSE in accordance with S 3's 1419/6. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2101/6.)

KASHMIR
KIPLING. Sailed 1900. (C. in C. Plymouth 2030/6.)

Operations.

Operation Q.D. Weather permitting Operation Q.D. will be carried out tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1135/6.) Operation Q.D. cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Nore 1821/6.)

Operation N.C. Will be carried out zero time 0315. (V.A. Dover 1218/6.)

Operation CLAYMORE. Scapa arrival C. in C.H.F. in NELSON C.S.18. in EDINBURGH, KING GEORGE V, NIGERIA, SOMALI, BEDOUIN, TARTAR, LEGION, ESKIMO, MAORI, ECLIPSE, INGLEFIELD, PUNJABI and ECHO (? QUEEN EMMA) and PRINCESS BEATRICE. (A.C.O.S. 1401/6.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6. 3. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Escorts. Expect Air Escort about 1100.
(C. in C. W.A. 0747/6 to REPULSE.)
2 Blenheim fighters from Sumburgh may be expected about 0830. (C. in C. Rosyth 0750/6 to C. in C. H.F.)
Expect A/S escort 1 Sunderland now.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0804/6, to WOLVERINE, etc.)
Friendly fighters are on their way to you now. (C. in C. Nore 1323/6 to LONDON.)

Enemy Air Activity.

SIMALOER (Bombed 2/3.) R.N.O. Fleetwood reports that Icelandic Trawler DALDUR, landed Master 6 officers and 32 Ratings from SIMALOER.
(C. in C. W.A. 0852/6.)

Lowestoft bombed. 1345/6 Dornier bombed Lowestoft. No Naval damage. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1329/6.)
Lowestoft attacked 1610 by Dornier. Stick of bombs all unexploded on Railway line and one between decks in trawler EVESHAM inner Harbour. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1713/6.)

Medway bombed. MEDWAY Conservancy report Channel of the river abreast Cuxton is completely blocked by 3 sunken barges and three or four tanks blown out of petrol barges. Also one tug sunk and lying bottom upwards. MEDWAY Conservancy request immediate outside assistance to clear river either by naval or commercial sources. Wrecks are about 3 miles above Rochester Bridge. Request immediate assistance be given to enable river to be cleared. (C. in C. Nore 1533/6.)

/LEEDS CITY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6. 3. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

LEEDS CITY. (Bombed 26/2.)	Arrived Clyde Tug SUPERMAN with LEEDS CITY in tow, escorted by MAN O' WAR. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1543/6.) By magnificent team work of WINCHELSEA, MAN OF WAR, Tug SUPERMAN and s.s.LEEDS CITY the latter ship was safely brought to Port and a cargo including Locomotives valued in all at over one million pounds was saved. WINCHELSEA first took LEEDS CITY in tow until all tows were parted and she was forced to return for fuel. MAN OF WAR stood by LEEDS CITY during tempestuous weather until Tug SUPERMAN arrived to resume the tow. These efforts would have been of no avail except for the exemplary behaviour of the crew of LEEDS CITY although the engine - room was flooded to a depth of 12 feet every man remained in the ship at his post. (C. in C. W.A. 1920/6.)
KINGSTON HILL. (Bombed 22/2.)	At Loch Ewe. Reports indicate vessel can raise steam if oil and water at present in engineroom can be got rid of. Assistance of RANGER may be necessary. Please instruct your Officers render all possible assistance avoid necessity towing this ship to repair port. (LITHGOW 1625/6 to S.V.D., Adty.).
Dover and Folkestone.	At 1140 today U.P. Battery fired two salvoes of thirty rounds each at JU 88 flying at about 3000 feet. Aircraft took avoiding action. At 1625 single aircraft dropped six bombs between end of Folkestone Jetty and Blockship. Tests disclose controlled mine-field unimpaired. No damage or casualties. (V.A. Dover 1839/6.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6. 3. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

MEXICO.
(In Convoy F.S.27.)
sunk.
Tug SUN VII.
sunk.

(Norwegian, 3017 Tons) Mined in 51° 53' N., 1° 37' E. Ship is sinking. WITHERINGTON standing by. (VERSATILE 0930/6.)
MEXICO mined in 100° 1.2 miles from South East Shipwash buoy. Survivors 23. Missing presumed killed 10. Ship still afloat with stern well underwater. (WITHERINGTON 0950/6.)
Tug being sent from Harwich. Get ship out of channel if possible. Buoy position of she sinks. (C. in C. Nore 1017/6, to VERSATILE.)
Report whether Mine is considered to have been grounded or moored. (C. in C. Nore 1029/6 to WITHERINGTON.)
Departure Tug KENIA at 1043/6 to assist MEXICO. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1045/6.)
Your 1017. Trawler PAUL RYKENS is standing by to buoy position if necessary. Salvage appears unlikely. (SHELDRAKE 1100/6 to C. in C. Nore.).
Arrived Sheerness WITHERINGTON 1520. (C. in C. Nore 1634/6.)
Asking for fighter protection for KENIA with Salvage Officer on board at 0700/7, escorted by LE TIGER to report on condition of wreck of MEXICO. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1721/6, to C. in C. Nore.)
At 0920 today diesel engined M/V MEXICO sunk by mine (probably acoustic) in 105° 9 cables from S.E. Ship Wash Buoy. 21 survivors (including three injured) - landed at Sheerness by WITHERINGTON. Believed 10 missing. Ship was in F.S.27 - wreck fore part showing. Southend tug SUN VII also sunk by mine at 1025 in 1.2 miles 060° North Knob Buoy. Following six survivors landed at Sheerness by yacht ALLOUETTE II. Believed five missing. (C. in C. Nore 2301/6.

MOST SECRET.

6. 3. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Sweep in Harwich Area.	Continue to sweep to 54 B Buoy. (C. in C. Nore 1113/6 to SEAGULL.).
Cardiff.	My 1100/5. Ships with I.C. engines may now enter and leave Cardiff. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1143/6.)
Thames Approaches.	CORDELA reports 3 mines detonated. Details.(C.O.I.C. Harwich 1227/6.)
S.N.4.	Proposed alteration in siting. (V.C.N.S. 1233/6 to RAM). See Operations Volume.
Rona/Faroes Minefield.	Your 0935/3/3/41. In view of fact that incoming trade may have to use this area laying of this field cannot be considered at present. (V.C.N.S. 1239/6 to R.A.M.)
Enemy Mining off Norway.	Your 1550/4, para. one. This is appreciated, but may it not be in German interest to extend the original Russian minefields in same way as British filled in gaps in German minefields off East Coast in early part of the war. 2. Apart from Press stories of floating mines off Norwegian Coast, only information received concerning the protective mining of Hardanger and Bergen Fjords - see my 1138/30/1, and 1515/23/1. 3. Only evidence of minelayer is report of Albatross (ex OLAV TRYGGVASON) which was sent to Kiel where stern was lengthened. Poop raised, a.a. guns fitted. She was at Bergen 20/2 then Haugesund where British aircraft damaged her and she is now under repair at Bergen.(N.A. Stockholm 1644/6.)

/LONDON.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6. 3. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

LONDON. M/S. Arrangements.	Minesweeping arrangements for passage of LONDON in Thames Estuary were as follows. Sweeps were timed to take place at as short an interval as practicable before passage of LONDON. It is evident that some of the mines laid by aircraft on evening of 4/3, became active this morning. (C. in C. Nore 1750/6, to Adty.,)
KERRYADO.	(M/S. Trawler) One Chief Skipper and eleven ratings saved from KERRYADO being cared for at Newhaven. Ten believed lost. Vessel was on passage from Dover to Swansea via Portsmouth. Struck what was believed to be a mine at 1051/6.(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1757/6.) KERRYADO sank at about 1100/6 in 160° Newhaven, 8 miles. Cause of loss uncertain but believed to be floating mine. Reference V.A. Dover's 0305/6. M/S LOIS sank a drifting V type German mine at 1020/6 in 144°, Beachy Head 6.5 miles. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1843/6.)
Firth of Forth.	Cancel my 1042/4/3. Both sides of Q.Z.S. 175 are now open. (C. in C. Rosyth 1825/6.).
Falmouth.	Mine detonated while mine recovery party was working on it. Casualties will be reported.(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1844/6.)
Tyne.	Tyne closed owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2145/6.)

/Blyth.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6. 3. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Blyth. Port closed owing to enemy minelaying. Time of opening uncertain. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 2217/6.).

Sunderland. Port of Sunderland closed owing to suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 2255/6.)

North Sea. At 1150/6. PRU. A/C, saw 2 Mines about one mile apart in 52° 28' N., 3° 22' E. (H.Q.B.C. 0012/7.)
Your 1902/3. Concur C.S.2. in GALATEA with AURORA will provide close escort. Do you require additional destroyers for your screen. (C. in C. H.F. 1843/6 to RAML.)
Your 1843/6. No additional Destroyers required unless defects develop in those at present doing escort duty for C. in C. W.A. or in CASTLETON due to leave Plymouth tomorrow. (RAML. 2138/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

S.N.4. Intended to carry out as follows. (RA.M.L. 2153/6.) See Operations Volume.

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats. E-Boat activity suspected near Aldeburgh L 298 at 2110/5. (C.in C., Nore 0059/6 to D.16.).

BOCKENHEIM TARONGA My 0205/1/3 and 1609/15/1. It is reported that Wilhelmsen ships BOCKENHEIM ex TAIPING and TARONGA may leave Oslo 11/3 escorted by armed whale catchers. Both ships well equipped, but it is not certain whether as ordinary A.M.C.'s or commerce raiders. B.2. (D.D.I.C. 1130/6).

Suspicious trawler. Your 1026/6. ? 1829/6 for COLLEGIAN intended. I am suspicious trawler reported by COLLEGIAN. (LORD AUSTIN 2220/6 to S.O., Trawlers N.P.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

D/G Repairs. Your 1232/1. Only minor d.g. repairs can be carried out at Oban and Loch Ewe. Ships developing defects must not be specially diverted to these ports for repair. Ships given destinations or diversions to these ports are those intended for East Coast discharge. At present they may safely continue as far as Methil where defects will be made good. My 2008/26 is confirmed. (D.T.D. 1322/6 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

A/A Divisions, Londonderry. Organisation (C.in C. W.A., 1639/6 - see Policy).

Irish Sea Area. In view of menace of a/c attack in South Irish Sea and to economise escorts, following measures are to be adopted for ships of 1600 tons and above. Shipping sailing independently from Liverpool and ports East of Isle of Man board for Bristol Channel Ports or south thereof is to proceed to Holyhead and thence to be escorted to join up with the Bristol Channel portion of the next inward bound convoy. Any shipping from E.N. convoys and independent ships sailing from Clyde or Belfast bound for ports south of Liverpool proceed to Belfast thence to be sailed to join the Bristol Channel portion of the next inward bound convoy. (C.in C. W.A., 1705/6, to C.in C. Plymouth, etc.).

Coastal Convoys.

F.S.27. Proceeded at 2315/5. (C.in C. More to D.16) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1001/6) Wash ships arrived, 1 exception (N.C.S.O. Humber 1140/6) Position, 16 ships for London (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1257/6) Arrived less MEXICO (N.C.S.O. Thames, 2036/6).

F.S.28. 37 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0947/6) Absentees (0948/6) 2 ships. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1746/6) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1942/6).

/ F.N.23. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.23.	Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0949/6 N.C.S.O. Tyne 0950/6).
F.S.26.	Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1001/6).
E.N.82.	0800/7. Escorts. 21 ships. Code, "Mission". (N.C.S.O. Methil 1005/6 1 ship for. (N.C.S.O. Lyness 1055/6).
W.N.96.	1000/8. Escorts. 6 ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1051/6).
E.N.81.	Position (A.C.O.S. 1039/6) E.T.A. (GAVOTTE, 1900/6).
W.N.94.	Position (A.C.O.S. 1101/6).
F.S.30.	Cancelled (C.in C. Rosyth 1145/6).
F.S.29 A (S)	Additional convoy 2300/7, SOUTHDOWN (C.in C. Rosyth 1145/6).
F.N.29.	Postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Rosyth 1145/6).
F.N.25.	List (N.C.S.O. Humber 1202/6) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1450/6).
E.N.U.81.	0400/7 unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1224/6) 2117/6 and 2118/6, cancelled (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 2155/6).
W.N.93.	E.T.A. (LADY ROSEMARY, 1400/6) Arrived 1700/6 (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1716/6).
F.S.29.	Sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1504/6) COTTESMORE to overtake (C.in C. Rosyth 1609/6) 5 ships from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1701/6). List (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1743/6) Blyth absentees (C.in C. Rosyth 2035/6).
E.N.80.	1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1512/6).
"Warrant"	Arrived (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1700/6).
"Wheel"	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Falmouth, 1801/6) List (1814/6).
C.W.28.	Sailing 9/3. Escorts. (C.in C. Nore 1820/6).

/ "Range" ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

"Range"	Sailed less 1 tanker (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1851/6) List (1907/6).
W.N.95.	1830/6, escorts, 11 ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1905/6).
F.N.27.	LA MELPOMENE to join (C.in C. Nore 2252/6, Cdre 1/c Sheerness, 1105/7).

Ocean Convoys.

O.B.C.294.	0204/6, NASTURTIUM, 5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0212/6) List (1045/6).
H.X.111.	Destinations amended. (C.in C. W.A. 0902/6) (D.T.D., 1536/6).
O.B.294.	PERIWINKLE sailed to overtake (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0930/6) VIVIEN sailed for (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1145/6) WITCH and WANDERER sailed for. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1438/6).
S.L.65.	1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1030/6) Investigate why MORGENEN left. (C.in C. W.A. 1155/6 to N.C.S.O. Belfast) Ships for Barry to be escorted. (C.in C. W.A. 1830/6 to DIDO).
S.C.25.	Advance sailing telegram (S.N.O. Halifax 1229/6).
H.G.54.	Destinations (D.T.D., 1230/6, 1232/6) Not met. Position (BROKE, 1358/6) Not met. (SALADIN, 1430/6) Met, also SALADIN, etc. (BROKE, 1746/6).
H.X.109.	1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1340/6).
H.X.110.	Not met, position, weather (HAVELOCK 1402/6) Destinations. (D.T.D. 1750/6, 1753/6, 1755/6.).
O.B.289.	Commodore's remarks on U/B attacks (R.A.3, 1421/6, see America and West Indies.).
O.B.C.295.	0045/9, 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1515/6).

/ S.C. 23. ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.).

S.C.23.	Destinations (D.T.D., 1749/6 to N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1751/6 to Belfast, 1754/6 to F.O.I.C's Cardiff and Milford H.).
O.G.55.	ARAB sailed for Oban portion (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1845/6).
O.G.M.55.	1903/6, YORK CITY, 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 1920/6) List (1924/6).
H.X.114.	Destinations (D.T.D., 1942/6).
S.L.68.	Destinations (D.T.D. 1943/6).
S.L.67.	See North Atlantic, re ARETHUSA escort.

Military Convoys.

BRITANNIA THEMISTOCLES CITY OF HONG KONG	Sailing date and speeds. (D.O.D.H.1904/6) See Operations Volume.
Service Personnel Ships.	Sailing dates and destinations. (D.O.D.H. 1905/6) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY

6.3.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Franklin. — Intend deferring sailing for 24 hours to enable effective repairs to be made. (FRANKLIN 0725/6)

DUNVEGAN. — My 1646/5. Arrived Fairlie. (Capt. A/S E.E. Fairlie 0830/6)

BALTARA (Convoy H.G. 54) — (British, 3292 tons) Detach one Trawler to stand by BALTARA requiring immediate assistance in 051° 26' N 022° 27' W. Inform Trawler that it is extremely unlikely that a Tug can be sent. Trawler report name of when well clear of convoy. (C.-in-C. W.A. 0847/6 to SALADIN) BALTARA sinking slowly 51° 25' N. 21° 38' W. (Liverpool 1037/6.) My 0847/6 and 1209/6. Latest position of BALTARA at 1340/6 G.M.T. 050° 50' N. 022° 27' W. Drifting southerly 1½ knots. (C.-in-C. 2151/6 to SALADIN)

SONIA MAERSK — My 1200/28th. Possibility of refloating SONIA MAERSK. Am doing necessary repairs at our risk. Boiler engine room and after part now clear of water. Hole in number one hold appears repairable. (D.S.T.O. Iceland 0935/6)

FINA — Detach ROCKINGHAM to proceed to 055° 36' N. 012° 42' W. to search towards north channel for steamship FINA requiring assistance in this position at 1638/5th. (C.-in-C. W.A. 1115/6 to VANOC)

BULOLO. — Reference BULOLO which arrived yesterday and C.-in-C. S.A. 1625/7/2 and 1152/21/2. Examination indicates at least three weeks work involved. Request immediate decision whether this work should be undertaken. (N.O.I.C. Glasgow 2222/6)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.3.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

BRAKE	German tanker, now confirmed was continuously at Ferrol from 12/12/40 until sailed on 2/3/41 for Bilbao. Identification at Cherbourg on 29/12 from an a/c was therefore incorrect. (D.S. 549).
EMPIRE STRAIT, s/m report.	N.A. Madrid 2300/3. (Report from Master of British ship EMPIRE STRAIT of Reed Horn blown during foggy period believed to be enemy s/m.) This was not a British s/m. (S.O.I.Gib.1012/6). Your 2330/5 (No trace in W.R.) ship sailed 5/3 prior to receipt of instructions with bunkers for Genoa only. Master states ship would be proceeding Yugo Slavia from Genoa. (S.O.I., Gib. 1110/6 to Admty.).
ARETHUSA S.L.67.	Admty. 1915/22/2. On arrival at 051° 00' N. ARETHUSA estimates 450 tons of fuel remaining. From this position could proceed to Scapa Flow at 18 knots and arrive estimated 175 tons of fuel remaining. Request instructions. (F.O.C.N.A. 1228/6, to Admty.).
ANNA BERG.	N.A. Lisbon reports Finnish ANNA BERG reported being boarded by believed British A.M.C. in 035° 44' N. 012° 49' W. at 0830/28 and removal of route orders from Funchal, also new identification signal. On next occasion breaking W/T silence or on arrival in harbour report if any knowledge of this occurrence. (F.O.C.N.A. 1232/6 to N. Atlantic ships). N.A. Lisbon 1117/5. Can you throw any light on this? (D.O.D.(F) 2227/6 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.P.)
REPULSE, destroyer escort, DUNCAN VELOX.	Admty. 1303/5. (1) By reducing screens for REPULSE and MALAYA to minimum and assuming FAULKNOR and FORESTER as previously arranged immediately require boiler cleaning on arrival, it will be possible to sail DUNCAN and VELOX to arrive Freetown three days before REPULSE is due. Necessary to draw both shafts on FIREDRAKE estimated time one month. FURY is refitting (estimated date to complete). Of seven destroyers available after departure DUNCAN and VELOX, none will be available between (dates) for RENOWN, STRATHMORE, etc. (F.O.C.N.A., 1626/6 to Admty.).

/ ARK ROYAL bombs. ...

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ARK ROYAL bombs. My 1525/26 (bombs used by ARK ROYAL's aircraft in attack on Leghorn). Result of investigation as follows.
Full written report follows.
(S.O. Force H., 1626/6 to Admty.).

French Convoys. Gibraltar 1230/6 French survey ship AMIRAL MOUCHEZ French ships OUED TIFLET, STRABON, SIMAIA, PIERRE POCHOLLE, TATIANA, all full, passed eastbound. French armed trawler LAFAYETTE French ships AISNE CRITON, three motor launches on deck, both light, passed westbound.
(S.O.I., Gib., 1655/6, to Admty. etc.).
(D.O.R. 7/3).

Operation RATION. To be put into effect at earliest opportunity. It would appear that forces will be available between (date). Request your intentions.
(D.O.D.(F) 1814/6 to F.O.C.N.A.).

SHEFFIELD A.T.1251/2 SHEFFIELD is required to act as ocean escort for MAIDSTONE and s.s. HIGHLAND MONARCH due to leave U.K. for Gibraltar about (date).
SHEFFIELD should therefore be sailed to the Clyde. (D.O.D.(F) 1903/6 to F.O. Force H., F.O.C.N.A.).

South Atlantic.

PERSEUS Your 1005/5 (Overdue Shipping) PERSEUS is at Accra. (S.O.I. Freetown 0938/6 to S.O.I., Capetown).

MARNESSA
PORT ELIZABETH Overdue ships. Cancel my 1006/5 MARNESSA 852 PORT ELIZABETH 914.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0946/6).

VIVA Overdue shipping, cancel my 1042/2, VIVA arrived Capetown.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0951B/6, to Admty.).

/ CHATEAU-ROUX ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CHATEAU-ROUX.	Your 1533/4. (1) None available (2) Position C 038° 10' N. 029° 56' W. (3) Impossible to estimate within two or three days. If able to make 6.5 knots, date should be 29/3. At 6 knots date would be 31/3. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1119/6).
VILLE DE STRASBOURG	My 2045/5 and your 1859/5. Ship may remain at Durban if you are satisfied she can be dealt with satisfactorily there. Otherwise as in my 2045/5. (C.in C. S.A., 1705N/6, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA	Admty. 1653 of 23/2. Orders. (D.O.D.(F) 1832/6 to C.in C. S.A., C.in C. E.I.).
COMMADANT DUBOC	
NARKUNDA	Your 1604/4. No escorting force is available and NARKUNDA should be sailed independently. (C.in C. S.A., 1859N/6, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
DELHI	My 0940/5, DELHI sailed from False Bay at 2000/6 for Durban. E.T.A. 0600/10. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2030Z/6, to Admty.).

Mediterranean.

Action Against Enemy A/C's.	My 1212/26/2 and A.G.M.762 A 10/2. Following rules for engagements of unseen aircraft by H.M. Ships at sea in Eastern and central Mediterranean have been agreed with H.Q. R.A.F. (C.in C. Med., 0050/6, to Admty.).
Greece.	Re Disposal of prisoners of war in Greece. (W.O., 0100/6 to C.in C. M.E.).

/ Tunis. ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Tunis.	My 1800/2. Notification has now been made to French Govt. H.M. Ships and aircraft should therefore attack without warning any ship at night south of 35° 46' N. whether within or outside Tunisian territorial waters. Please inform H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. (Head of M. 0857/6 to C.in C. Med.).
Air Mail Delayed.	Information gleaned from Press that an Air Mail to Egypt despatched from London on 10/1 has been delayed through enemy action. Request such notification may be sent by Admiralty as early as practicable as promised in your 1558/28/11/40. (C.in C. Med., 0955/6, to Admty.).
"Lustre" Force.	C.in C. Med., 1038/6 See Med. Vol.
Suez Canal mines.	5/3. One sweep by 2 D.W.I. Wellingtons exploded 2 mines in Suez Canal. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1219/6, to Air Min.).
Bosporus.	N.A. Ankara 1253/6 see Mediterranean Volume.
DELOS (German)	5/3 arrived Istanbul. (Galata 1316/6.).
RORQUAL.	Of utmost importance that no hint of nature or place of your operation should become known. Your operation should be referred to as normal patrol. (S.1 to RORQUAL, 1552/6.).
Malta.	Combined Services Report Malta up to 1600 6/3. Sunderland patrolled Western Ionian Sea. No ships seen. Four Air alarms to-day when small number of enemy aircraft in the vicinity. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1630/6.).
ATLAS	Left 6/3 for Marseilles. (Valencia, T.H.I. 1745/6 recd. from M. of S. at 2005.).

/ ATLAS
BELLONA
renamed ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

ATLAS
BELLONA
renamed
SALTA
JESUS
ANTONIO

Barcelona report German S.S.ATLAS and BELLONA are now believed to be calling themselves SALTA and JESUS ANTONIO.
First named also reported by other source.
(C.3.) (N.A. Madrid, 1815/6, to S.O.I. Gib.).

East Indies.

Request you will comply with para. B. of my 0128/6 to A.C.N.B. (see Australia).
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0129/6 to C.in C. E.I.).

COBURG
and
KETTY
BROVIG
sunk.

My 0710/5. CANBERRA 1750/5, four parts is being passed to addressees by L/T.
My 0800/5 enquired if Germans were able to communicate news encountered to anyone else.
Do not consider W/T conditions at time were suitable for either ship to communicate with Germany without considerable difficulty.
Estimate probability of the Germans being unaware of encounter as 80%.
(C.in C. E.I., 0346Z/6, to A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., C.O.I.S. Singapore, Admty., etc.).

FORMIDABLE
JUNO
GRIFFIN

Departure 6/3 0330Z FORMIDABLE, JUNO, GRIFFIN.
E.T.A. Suez 0600Z/7.
(N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 0400Z/6, to Admty.).

Italian preparations to scuttle ships at Massawa.

(S.O. (I) Aden reports that Native Sources state Italian preparations already made to scuttle all ships including Warships at Massawa, and Italians may send families to Yemen on steamers displaying Red Crosses in which Officers would escape. C.3.
(C.in C. E.I. 0402Z/6.).

RAMB I.
COBURG
KETTY BROVIG

Your 1946/3. I agree. Interrogation of prisoners gives no indication that RAMB I was co-operating with other raider. Movements of RAMB I and COBURG may indicate that remaining ships will attempt to escape if these two had been successful. Prisoners from RAMB I state that ship was prepared for scuttling and in any case ships will probably attempt to scuttle to avoid capture.

/ In view of ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.3.1941. Thursday.

FORRIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

RAMB I COBURG KETTY BROVIG (contd.)	In view of possibility of salvage if scuttled in harbour, it is considered desirable to induce enemy ships to remain in Massowa. See my 0402/6/11. Your 1825/15. It might assist if capture of five ships from Kismayu is now published as well. The presence of those ships in Mombasa must be widely known now. Consider that sinking of COBURG and KETTY BROVIG should be withheld for the present. (C.in C. E.I., 0412Z/6, to Admty.).
Mining in Suez Canal.	Request reply to my 0545/3. (F.O.C.R.I.N., to C.in C. Med. 0515/Z/6).
PROTECTOR	Your 1108/2. Concur PROTECTOR can be most usefully employed in Suez Canal for present. Early arrival of dredger SUPERWORKER at Aden however is an urgent requirement so that PROTECTOR tows it to the Canal area now if possible. (C.in C. E.I., 0720Z/6, to C.in C. Med.).
Mogadiscio.	My 1206/27/2. Four piers exist. (details). Craft now available Mogadiscio and Merca. Shore Batteries at Mogadiscio. Indications that Field Artillery was used for coast defence purposes. (C.in C. E.I., 0738Z/6 to Admty.).
CITY OF DURBAN.	Admty. 0119/5 and my 1258/5. Request CITY OF DURBAN be ordered to return to Mauritius forthwith. I can only communicate with her at present in M.N.C. which I wish (?to) avoid using if possible. (C.in C. E.I., 0800Z/6, to Admty.).
Embarkation of troops for M.E.	Amendment to 0833/6/1. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 1051Z/6, to C.in C. E.I.).
RANCHI.	My 0620/5 Para 2. After completing with fuel and disembarking steaming party at Durban, RANCHI is to proceed on patrol in accordance with my 0628/2. (C.in C. E.I., 1206Z/6).

/ CAPE SABLE ....

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

CAPE SABLE.	To leave Colombo at 0330Z/7 for Aden. Route. (C.in C. E.I., 1232Z/6.).
KANIMBLA DUNERA	KANIMBLA escorting H.T. DUNERA sailed. E.T.A. Kilindini 0500 G.M.T./12. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1407/6).
CITY OF DURBAN KING GRUFFYD	Your 1254/5 and 1258/5 appear to have crossed my 0119/5. CITY OF DURBAN requires docking but it is at your discretion to delay it. KING GRUFFYD is available now. (D.O.D.(F) 1434/6 to C.in C. E.I.).
DURMITOR	With a view to the possibility of instituting Prize Court proceedings in regard to DURMITOR request information if available on following points. (D.T.D. 1839/6 to C.in C. E.I.).
W.S.5A. W.S.5B. U.S.9.	C.in C. E.I. 1122/3, 1120/3, S.E.N.O. Suez Canal Areas' 1148/6. Owing to necessity for all vessels of W.S.5B to disembark Suez all ships cannot be ready to sail by 10th. Following are dates of readiness to sail, weather permitting. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1841/6 to C.in C. E.I., etc.).
ADRIA MANON LEONARDA DA VINCI ERMINIA MAZZELLA SAVOIA	Your 1108/4. Unnecessary for condemnation proceedings to be instituted. Telegram from Governor Kenya to S. of S. for Colonies states that prize court has already made order for immediate requisitioning of vessels, and registration as British ships is being effected. Registration should not delay ships sailing. (D.T.D. 1852/6 to C.in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.3.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

MARPESSA — Your 1006/5 (Overdue Shipping) MARPESSA sailed Sabang 10/2 due Capetown 8/3. (S.O.I. Singapore, 0313/6, to S.O.I. Capetown).

Indo-China. — F.E.W. 20A. Thai - Indo China armistice now reported prolonged indefinitely. Indo China - Great Britain Trade and Shipping Agrement came into force 1/3.

Japanese Fleet. — Units of combined Japanese fleet operating in Formosian waters. Tokyo broadcasts to Flagships and persistent traffic in flag officers cypher, indicates forthcoming operations or manoeuvres. (C.O.I.S. Far East 1015Z/6 to Admty. etc.).

America and West Indies.

ERLANGAN. — Callao reports she now has 800 tons of coal on board. (S.O.I. Kingston, 0932/6).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN BUXTON — Admty. 1405/5 (H.X.115) and your 1800/28. Proposed to sail ROYAL SOVEREIGN to arrive Halifax not later than 0700 Z/16. Repairs to BUXTON unlikely to be completed in time for her to accompany ROYAL SOVEREIGN. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1002/6, to F.O. 3 B.S.).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. — Admty. 1405/5 and my 1800/28. Request ROYAL SOVEREIGN may now be sailed to arrive Halifax on 15/3 or not later than 0700 Q/16. (R.A.3 1105/6 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

TILAPA, speed. — N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1348/10. Master SS TILAPA on return to Bermuda confirms speed of ship 12½ knots. Suspect some Marine Superintendents are inclined to exaggerate speed of their ships in order to obtain independent sailings. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1126/6, to Admty.).

/ Convoy Secret Envelopes. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.3.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Convoy Secret Envelopes.	Your 1211/3 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda. Arrangements now being made for secret envelopes to be issued to all ships by boat immediately before sailing. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1252/6, to Admty.).
U/B attacks on O.B.289 24/2.	Admiral Ramsey Commodore O.B.289 is convinced that S/M attacks were made from ahead and that U-boats returned to this position for subsequent attacks. He believes that in accordance with W. Approaches convoy instructions section G, front convoy was left unprotected after initial attack as local escort concentrated on searching rear and flanks with Star Shells. (R.A. 3, 1421/6, to C.in C. W.A.).
RONIN (Panamanian)	Your 2204/4. Cancel my 1118/1. (D.T.D. to C.in C. A.W.I. 1537/6.).
Tankers.	My 1734/5. Departure from Bermuda in Convoy is as follows:- 9/3 and 15/3 thence add 10 days in each case. Convoy cycle is not to be disclosed but ships should be sailed to arrive Bermuda with a margin of not less than 24 hours in cases where expediting your sailings would prevent missing a Convoy by a short time. (D.T.D. 1833/6 to N.C.S.O's Trinidad, Curacoa, Aruba.).

Australia.

CANBERRA LEANDER AUSTRALIA SYDNEY HOBART.	Your 0736/26/2 much appreciated and has enabled CANBERRA in company with LEANDER to operate most effectively in the Indian Ocean. It seems clear now that Pocket Battleship must have moved to another area and the possibility of her appearing in the Tasman Sea cannot be ruled out. To cover this possibility C.in C. E.I. is being directed to send AUSTRALIA to the Fremantle area and this would enable you to move SYDNEY and HOBART back to the Tasman Sea should you wish to do so. (A.C.N.B. (F) 0128/6 to A.C.N.B.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

From today signals relating to the above are precised under the respective stations to which they refer.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

General.

Reply to Intensive Attack.

Probable that Germany will make an extreme effort now to cripple our shipping by placing larger numbers of U/Boats in W. Approaches and we must meet this effort. I therefore intend, for a period, to meet this menace with a special effort on our part. The present proportion of Harbour time to sea will be reduced slightly, so that one group can be spared at a time to concentrate specially on U/Boat hunting. I know that all in my command will realise the necessity for this special effort and give of their best.
(C.in C. W.A., 1904/6 to Capts. D., Liverpool, Greenock, N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Night Attacks on Convoys.

Our efforts to destroy U/Boats which carry out surface attacks on convoys at night have not up to date proved entirely successful. New methods must be tried out. S.O's of groups must take every opportunity of discussing this problem with their several C.O's. I have lately pointed out necessity of keeping rear of the convoy guarded, but this is not enough, and, if an escort is sufficiently strong, it is well worth reinforcing still further the rear of the convoy, so as to guard against U/Boat attack from this direction in which the efficiency of look-outs in all types of surface craft, is proverbially less efficient than on forward bearings.
S.O's of escorts should consider (A) advisability of increasing the existing arcs of star shell fire, (B) reducing distances from the P convoy to which escort vessels at present proceed after an attack, thereby reducing the risk of U/Boat returning to attack during their absence, and (C) A.S.V. Destroyers on each beam turning 180° and searching the area on either quarter of the convoy.
(C.in C. W.A., 1909/6, to Capts. D., Liverpool, Greenock, N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

PACIFIC
torpedoed 1/3.

British (Ex-American), 6034 tons, from New York to Oban and Hull with cargo of scrap, was torpedoed and sunk about 180 miles W.S.W. of Syders Island, Faroes, approx. 60.20 N., 12.18 W. at 2345/1. Was a straggler from Convoy H.X.109. 1 survivor has been landed at Fleetwood. (D.O.R. 6/3,) (D.S. 548, 6/3)
Sole survivor landed at Fleetwood by Icelandic Trawler DALDUR. Survivor states that no boats were launched.
(C.in C. W.A. 0852/6).

HOLMELEA
(torpedoed 28/2)

10 survivors landed at Fleetwood state torpedoed and sunk by 2 torpedoes at 2010/28. approx. 260 miles W. of Slyne Head. HOLMELEA, bound independently from Rosario to Hull with linseed and maize, reported she was being shelled at 0236/28. (D.O.R. 6/3) (D.S. 548, 6/3)
2 Officers and 8 Ratings landed at Fleetwood by Icelandic Trawler DALDUR
(C.in C. W.A. 0852/6).

CLAN MACARTHUR
shelled

British, 10,528 tons, bound independently from Calcutta and Table Bay for Liverpool and Glasgow, reported 0835/6 she was being shelled 61.55 N., 25.12 W.

GUILVINEC
(torpedoed 19/2)

Vichy French, 3181 tons, torpedoed by an unknown s/m 170 miles from San Sebastian on 19/2. 22 of crew picked up, taken to Pasajes, 17 missing (D.S. 548, 6/3).

ANGLO PERUVIAN
CAPE NELSON

Reference 1920/5, HARBERTON arrived Halifax 4/3 with 17 survivors of ANGLO PERUVIAN and 33 survivors of CAPE NELSON torpedoed and sunk.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 0858/6, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.3.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1751. 56.30 N., 21° W., position indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 549).

2240. 56.30 N., 10° W., position indefinite (German) (D.S. 549).

2049. 55.56 N., 10.06 W., MANSFIELD obtained contact (D.S. 549).

2025. 59° N., 23° W., position indefinite (German) (D.S.549).

2007. 46.30 N., 11° W. - 8° W., position indefinite (German (D.S. 549).

2351/5 B.S.T. By D/F German U-Boat in area 100 miles radius from 26° 40' N. 21° 20' W. (D.D.I.C. 0834/6) (F.O.C.N.A. 1028/6 to N.A. Stn.) (C.in C. S.A., 13415N/6 to MALAYA, CILICIA).

My 2205/6. Probability is that U/B reported convoy O.B.293 or H.X.110. (D.D.I.C. 2225/6 to W. Approaches, HAVELOCK, WOLVERINE, H.Q.C.C.).

2256. An enemy Submarine has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit. (D.D.I.C. 2256/6 to W. App. H.Q.C.C.). My 2255/6. Probable that formation reported was Convoy S.L.S.65, S.L.65, O.B.294, or TAKU. (D.D.I.C. 2311/6 to ENCHANTRESS, WANDERER, DIDO, CALDWELL, H.Q.C.C.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1332/6).

Submarines Attacked.

2049. At 2049/6 good contact in position 055° 56' N. 010° 06' W. (MANSFIELD, 2230/6, to DIDO).

0930/24. French LEOPARD attacked contact, probably a wreck (A.4) in 59.16 N., 21.18 W., 260' W.N.W. Rockall (D.S.549).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.3.1941
Friday

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

DIDO	DIDO arrived at Greenock this evening with hull defects caused by heavy weather.
S/M Patrols	Certain S/M patrols are to be reinstated. (See C-in-C Plymouth 1333/7, F.O.S.1643/7). The feasibility of operating S/M's from a certain base is to be investigated. (See Adty 1932/7).
E boat attacks on F N 26 and F S 29. S.S.DOTTEREL, CORDUFF, BOULDERSPOOL, TOGSTON, KENTON torpedoed. SHELDRAKE damaged.	Convoy F N 26 was attacked by E boats tonight off Yarmouth and Cromer. S.S. CORDUFF (F N 26), BOULDERSPOOL (F N 26), and TOGSTON (F S 29) were torpedoed and sunk, and S.S.KENTON (F N 26), and DOTTEREL (F N 26) were torpedoed and went ashore. SHELDRAKE was damaged by the explosion of the second torpedo which hit DOTTEREL. Both SHELDRAKE and PUFFIN, escorting the convoy, engaged the enemy and believe they damaged them severely.
M.T.B.28 destroyed.	M.T.B.28 was destroyed today by fire, believed caused by petrol, at Portsmouth.
U boat campaign. S.S.DELILIAN, ATHELBEACH, MIJDRECHT, TERJE VIKEN torpedoed.	Convoy O B 293 was attacked by U boat early this morning about 250 miles N.W. of Butt of Lewis; S.S.DELILIAN and tankers ATHELBEACH and MIJDRECHT (Dutch) and British Oil Refinery Ship TERJE VIKEN (20,638 tons) were torpedoed. MIJDRECHT states that she rammed the U boat and obtained 2 hits with her gun. ARBUTUS with CAMELIA in company this morning
U 70 sunk.	destroyed a U boat, believed to be U 70, 280 miles N.W. of the Butt of Lewis, and took 25 prisoners. This is probably one of the U boats which attacked Convoy O B 293 earlier in the day and was damaged by MIJDRECHT.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.3.1941
Friday

SITUATION REPORT.

Convoys

H X and S C Convoys.

Adty 1343/7 contains a decision as to the scale of ocean escort to be provided for H X and S C Convoys.

A conference is to be held at the Admiralty on 11/3 to discuss measures for reducing convoy delays and other matters connected with convoys.

British Air Activity

All operations by Bomber Command last night and today were cancelled owing to unsuitable weather.
Bad weather considerably curtailed the operations of Coastal Command today.
Beaufort aircraft attacked a 2500 ton merchant ship near the Helder early this afternoon and left it in a sinking condition.
The naval dockyard at the Helder was also attacked.
In the St.George's Channel a projective AA patrol was flown throughout daylight, and in the North Channel and Minches A/S patrols were flown all day. A special A/S patrol was carried out about 170 miles north of Rockall.

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on East Coast Convoys.

S.S.FLASHLIGHT sunk. S.S. AFTERGLOW, S.S.ARLETTA, BRACON MOOR, DHOON damaged.

The East Coast convoys were shadowed and attacked during the greater part of today. GUILLEMOT, escorting Convoy F S 28, shot down an aircraft and captured one prisoner; no ships were hit. S.S.FLASHLIGHT was sunk and S.S.AFTERGLOW damaged in Convoy F S 29. S.S.ARLETTA in Convoy F N 26 was damaged. Group 31 were attacked off Yarmouth and M/S Trawler BRACON MOOR was damaged. A/P Trawler DHOON was damaged off Harwich and was beached. A German bomber crashed at the entrance to the Tay after striking the mast of the fishing trawler STRATH BLANE: the trawler has a U X B on board. A/T GEORGE ROBB damaged a German aircraft off Yarmouth and the Military finished it off with Bofors guns.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.3.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Brightlingsea attacked. The base premises at Brightlingsea were attacked this afternoon, but the damage caused was very slight, though there were a few casualties.

Humber attacked. Bombs were dropped in the Convoy Anchorage in the Humber and Killingholme balloon barrage was machine gunned. No damage has been reported.

Mining.

Operation Z M E 22. PLOVER last night laid mines in St.George's Channel.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft took place last night off the north east coast, and in daylight today off the Humber and elsewhere on the east coast. Mines were laid off Spurn Point at 1220 by one enemy a/c and were detonated by L.L.sweepers during the afternoon. Between 1430 and 1630 six enemy a/c were observed laying mines in the entrance to the Humber, 15 mines being seen to drop. The Humber was closed at 1805.

Mines were exploded off the Tyne and one of them damaged S.A.Trawler BADINAGE.

Several explosions were heard off Newhaven this forenoon. Mines were detonated off Sheerness and Liverpool.

Swansea and Port Talbot were opened shortly before noon; some mines were detonated this afternoon.

Mediterranean.

Air attacks on Malta. Last night the Grand Harbour, Hal Far and other objectives were bombed by about 12 aircraft. No Government damage resulted. A further attack was made

MOST SECRET.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

this morning and some of our aircraft were damaged as well as some of the enemy. A second attack was made today from 1840 to 2120 and IMPERIAL, repairing at Malta, was slightly damaged and transport ESSEX, which was damaged by air attack on 16/1, received further damage.

Suez Canal. Ten merchant ships have passed through the Canal from Suez to Bitter Lakes. FORMIDABLE has passed the wreck of the AGIOS GEORGIOS and gared up at km.139. It is considered there are still 3 mines in the Canal which it is hoped to open on 11/3.

Enemy minelaying. It is believed that enemy minelaying took place on 24/2 on the Cape Bon - Tripoli route.

East Indies.

From further investigation it appears probable that S.S.CANADIAN CRUISER (sunk by raider 21/2) painted U.S.A. colours on his ship after leaving Colombo.

China.

C-in-C China 14312/7 gives information of certain patrols by N.E.I. naval forces.

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Policy.

Employment of 6th M.L.F. — Ref. to C. in C. Plymouth's 1332/6, as base at Londonderry is not yet fully ready and weather conditions render operation of M.L's doubtful at present, suggest 6th M.L. Flotilla remain in South where they can be fully employed, until definitely required by C. in C. W.A. (R.A.C.F. 1250/7).

Movements.

FINA. — Your 2239/6. Owing to present sea conditions cannot contact FINA until she is East of 006° W. Am proceeding Londonderry. (ROCKINGHAM 0020/7 to C. in C. W.A).

MASHONA. — Sailed 0035/7 to R/V at 20 Buoy in accordance with your 2356/5. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0130/7 to C. in C. Nore)

OTUS. — Arrangements for sailing to Gibraltar. (S.5. 0915/7, 1403/7). Report p.c. and s. (C. in C. Plymouth 1740/7 to OTUS).

WALKER
O 10. — After escorting Clyde portion you are to escort submarine O 10 from Holylock to Holyhead then proceed to Liverpool. (C. in C. W.A. 1655/7 to WALKER). Adty 1648/6. S/M O ten is available to proceed to Holyhead forthwith. Request escort may be provided. (Capt. (S) 7 1021/7). Intend sailing O10 escorted by WALKER from Rothesay at 1030/8 for Holyhead E.T.A. 0730/9. N.O.I/C Greenock is requested to arrange Fighter protection during daylight hours. (Capt. S.7. 2156/7).

GARTH.
COTTESMORE. — GARTH and COTTESMORE are to proceed Rosyth forthwith and complete with fuel. (C. in C. Rosyth 1031/7).

/KASHMIR.....

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Movements. (contd).

KASHMIR. KIPLING. — Arrived 0830. (C. in C. Plymouth 1222/7).

COMORIN. — Leave Convoy 2000/7 and proceed independently routed through (positions) thence through North Channel to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A. 1241/7)

A/S patrol. — A.M. 1750/1. Until arrival of WINDERMERE and BUTTERMERE one A/S trawler is to be maintained on A/S patrol in the area bounded by Sulisker, North Rona, Cape Wrath, Butt of Lewis. (C. in C. W.A. 1306/7 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).

KING SOL. — Can not make rendezvous as laid down in 0945/7 N.O. I/C. Great Yarmouth before 1615/7. Doing my utmost speed. (KING SOL 1450/7). Your 1450 report if you have not made R/V. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1740/7 to KING SOL).

UNBEATEN. — CAMBRIDGESHIRE will R/V with you at 0715/8 at N one. You may expect to see special illumination trials to northward of you from 0530 until daylight. Movements (?affecting) you nil. (Capt. (S) 5 1855/7 to UNBEATEN).

OTUS. 0. 23. — Sailing of OTUS probably delayed owing to defects. Suggest O.23 be ordered by you to proceed direct to Gibraltar at normal speed. (F.O.S. 2131/7 to F.O.C.N.A).

Operations.

Harwich March 7th arrival M.T.B's 22, 30, 32. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0845/7).

ANNA BERG. — Your 2227/6. In view of MALVERNIAN's 1800/27 it is possible that she boarded ANNA BERG before carrying out my 2250/25. (V.A.N.P. 1128/7 to Admty).

/S/M.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

S/M patrol.	C. in C. Plymouth 1353/7, 1643/7; See Operations Volume.
Projected S/M operations.	D.O.D. (H) 1932/7. See Operations Volume.
E boat attack on Convoy F.N. 26. See also 8/3.	There are indications of E-Boats bearing 080° from Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore 2045/7). Following has been read:- F.N. 26 attached by E boats at 56 buoy. (SHELDRAKE 2045/7).
DOTTEREL	My 2045 position 6 buoy.
CORDUFF	(SHELDRAKE 2054/7)
BOULDERPOOL	S.S. DOTTEREL hit in number two hold requires
TOGSTON	(?tug) No. 6 Buoy. (SHELDRAKE 2115/7).
KENTON	One E boat 52° 28' N. 20° 3' E. ((D) 16
torpedoed	2159/7)
SHELDRAKE	F.N. 26 attacked by E-Boats. 6 buoy.
damaged.	(SHELDRAKE 2201/7).
	Proceeding to Yarmouth with survivors one critically injured e.t.a. 2330. Request Pilot. (SHELDRAKE 2241/7)
	My 2115 ship has been struck a second time. (SHELDRAKE 2140/7).
	Great Yarmouth 2230/7 departure to assist S.S. DOTTEREL No. 6 Buoy Tug DIVERSION. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2240/7).
	Your 2115 tug is being sent from Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore 2149/7 to SHELDRAKE).
	My 2115 Ship struck with second torpedo forward and probably aground position 052° 41' N. 001° 59' E. 3 E Boat attacks. (SHELDRAKE 2247/7).
	My 2159 have lost contact. (D. 16 2218/7).
KASTELHOLM.	Finnish KASTELHOLM intercepted by VASCAMA in 63° 17' N. 16° 47' W. Eastbound attempting to pass North of Faeroes. LORD AUSTIN ordered to R.V. 0800/8 and escort KASTELHOLM to Kirkwall. (S.O.N.T. 2350/7).

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British Air Activity.

Air Patrols.

Today. S.A. 2, S.A. 3, Fair.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0920/7).
My 0920/7 S.A. 3 cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 1146/7).

Instructions for flying of kites and balloons.

Adty 1054/27/2 para 5. Request information whether this is intended to apply to mobile balloon barrage accompanying Channel Convoys. (C. in C. Nore 1236/7).

Penalty areas.

For 24 hours commencing 0800/8, North Sea Atlantic. (H.Q.C.C. 1240/7).

Air Patrols with Convoys.

Amended procedure. (C. in C. W.A. 1840/7).

Enemy Air Activity.

A/T GEORGE ROBB.

One German A/C shot down by A.A. Fire at 0733/7 off Yarmouth. 3 airmen picked up. Aircraft destroyed by fire.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0837/7).
My 0837/7 A/C first hit by A/T GEORGE ROBB finished off by Military Bofors. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1328/7).

Convoy F.S.28. GUILLEMOT.

Help OCEAN (F.S. 10 - South of Tyne) 51° 53' N. 1° 35' E. (GUILLEMOT 0948/7).
My 0948 have shot aircraft down. (GUILLEMOT 0950/7).
My 0950 no damage or casualties, one survivor picked up. (GUILLEMOT 1023/7).

AAAA

Automatic AAAA intercepted 1111 G.M.T. bearing 055° from Humber Radio strength of Signals 3. (Lyness 1112/7).
AAAA Automatic AAAA intercepted 1128 G.M.T. bearing 061° from Humber Radio strength 2. (Humber Radio 1129/7).

/Convoy.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Convoy F.S.29
S.S. FLASHLIGHT sunk.
S.S. AFTERGLOW damaged.

Help BOOTY 53° 37' N. 0° 50' E. (PUFFIN 1220/7).
Fighter protection has been despatched to odd numbered F.S. Convoy S. of Tyne. (Nore W/T 1235/7).
(Corrupt group) FLASHLIGHT in 053° 55' N, 000° 51' E. suffered near miss in bombing attack. No casualties. Request tug may be sent immediately. Trawler AKRANES is standing by and will endeavour to take her in tow. (PUFFIN 1315/7 to N.O.i/c Humber).
PUFFIN's 1315/7. S.S. FLASHLIGHT reported sunk. Submerged wreckage reported in 53° 31' 20" N. 00° 49' 0" E. (F.O. Humber 1724/7).
One enemy aircraft shadowing BOOTY. 53° 16' N. 1° 8' E. (PUFFIN 1550/7).
AFTERGLOW leaking in engine room from near miss in bombing attack. Pumps broke down. Have detached her at Sheringham Buoy for passage to Yarmouth. Trawler LOCH ALSH is standing by. Request escort may be sent. (PUFFIN 1740/7).
Your 1740. Can AFTERGLOW steam and what route was she given to Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore 1951/7 to PUFFIN).
1 enemy aircraft shadowing even numbered F.S. Convoy 343° 52° N. 2° E. 12. (SHELDRAKE 1655/7).
Two enemy aircraft shadowing BOOTY in 52° 25' N. 1° 10' E. (PUFFIN 1509/7).
Enemy aircraft bombing BOOTY. My position 53° 25' N. 1° 15' E. (PUFFIN 1518/7).

Convoy F.N.26.

One aircraft bearing 090° height less than 1,000 feet. Position 51° 47' N. 1° 31'E. (VERSATILE 1257/7).
My 1257 D.O. 215. (VERSATILE 1300/7).
HELP AGENT 51° 47' N. 1° 31' E. (VERSATILE 1307/7).
Enemy bombing Convoy AGENT. (VERSATILE 1317).
My 1317. No hits. (VERSATILE 1319/7).
One enemy aircraft bearing 010° height 20000 feet in 51° 52' N. 1° 35' E. (VERSATILE 1355/7).
Enemy A/C Height 2000 feet. 51° 55' N. 1° 40' E. (VERSATILE 1359/7, 1408/7, 1414/7).

/My.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Convoy F.N. 26. (contd).

My 1355 H.E. 111. (VERSATILE 1357/7).
My 1414 H.E. 111. (VERSATILE 1415/7).
Help AGENT 240 52° 2° 18. (SHELDRAKE 1409/7).
Fighters have been despatched to the assistance of Convoy AGENT. (Nore 1445/7).
Enemy aircraft bombing in position TCLE 0044. (VERSATILE 1449/7).
Even numbered F.N. Convoy South of Tyne. (SHELDRAKE 1449/7).
My 1449 no hits. (VERSATILE 1450/7)
Convoy AGENT requires help position 317, 52° N. 2° E, 8. (SHELDRAKE 1615/7).
Enemy aircraft bombing AGENT. My position 52° 08' N. 10° 53' E. (VERSATILE 1619/7).
2 Enemy A/C bombing AGENT No hits. (BERKELEY 1620/7).
My 1619 No hits. (VERSATILE 1623/7).
One enemy aircraft shadowing AGENT in 52° 13' N. 1° 56' E. course 018° speed 8 knots (BERKELEY 1659/7).
One enemy aircraft bearing 150° height 2000 ft. position T C L E 0044. (VERSATILE 1500/7).
Two enemy airfraft shadowing AGENT height 2,000 ft. p.c. and s. of convoy TLCE 0549, 033° 8 knots. (VERSATILE 1506/7).
My 1506 aircraft still shadowing. (VERSATILE 1526/7).

AAAA

AAAA Automatic AAAA signal heard at 1344 G.M.T. strength 2 bearing from GKZ Humber 025° and by GCC Cullercoats strength 3 bearing 149° unreliable sector. (Cullercoats Radio 1344/7).

Convoy H.G.

One enemy aircraft, bearing 270° height 1000 feet shadowing CAMEL in 53° 35' N. 18° 41' W. Course 034°. Speed 4 knots. (LEITH 1413/7).

PYTCHLEY.

One enemy A/C bearing 210° height 1000 feet 53° 16' N. 1° 5' E. (PYTCHLEY 1500/7)

Group 31.
BRACON MOOR.

Group 31 were attacked by A/C with bomb and machine gun near No. 6 buoy at 1044 to-day Friday.
BRACON MOOR sustained damage from Near Miss which will require one week to repair. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1811/7).

/DHOON.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

DHOON. Harwich 7/3 departure KENIA to assistance of A/P Trawler DHOON. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1735/7).
(A/P Trawler) damaged by near miss beached on Harwich Hard. No casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1915/7).

STRATH BLANE German A/C destroyed. German bomber crashed in entrance to Tay at 2020 after striking mast of fishing trawler STRATH BLANE. No survivors an UXB landed on board STRATH BLANE whose crew have been evacuated. Wreckage recovered establishes proof of nationality.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee 2155/7).

Brightlingsea. Ref. my 1805/7. To Harwich only. Base premises attacked by two Messerschmitt Aircraft at 1720 today. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 2115/7).

Mining.

Operation S.N.4. Adty 1233/6 just received. No practical objection to changing this position. Propose my 2153/6 be amended as follows. This allows of certainty field being laid to limit of depth. (R.A.M.L. 0049/7). Your 1233/6. No objection (C. in C. H.F. 1035/7 to R.A.(M)). Your 0049/7. Concur. (V.C.N.S. 1127/7 to R.A.(M)).

Operation ZME. 22. Operation Z.M.E. 22 completed. (PLOVER 0518/7).

Sheerness. S.A. Mines detonated as follows. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0859/7, 0905/7, 1201/7).

/Newhaven.....

MOST SECRET.

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Mining. (contd).

Newhaven explosions.	Explosion heard at 0947 and approx. bearing and distance 150° 10 miles from P.W.S.S. Newhaven. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0950/7). Heavy explosion in approx. same position as previously reported. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1006/7). Further heavy explosions on bearing approx. 165° from P.W.S.S. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1020/7).
North Shields.	Mine exploded by BADINAGE as follows. (P.M.S.O. North Shields 1122/7). S.A. Trawler BADINAGE damaged by mine exploding close astern at 0836. No casualties Now at Shields Engineering Co. leaking. Engine feet cracked. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1027/7). S.A. Mine exploded by UTVAER as follows. (B.M.S.O. North Shields 1545/7).
Swansea & Port Talbot.	My 2131/3 is cancelled. Ships may now enter and leave Swansea and Port Talbot. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1155/7). Mines detonated 7/3. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1720/7, 1759/7).
Tyne.	1 Ground magnetic mine detonated 1510/7 112° N. Tyne Pier Light 6 cables. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1555/7).
Humber.	Humber is closed to navigation enemy minelaying. Anticipated time of opening noon/8. (F.O. Humber1805/7). At 1220 one enemy A/C laid mines off Spurn point. These were detonated by LL sweepers at 1540 between 1430 and 1630 six enemy A/C were observed laying mines in Humber entrance. 15 mines observed to drop - bombs also dropped in convoy anchorage and Killingholme balloon barrage machine gunned. Closed at 2500 prevented fighters operating or gun fire being effective. (F.O. Humber 1907/7). The following 6 mines were exploded to-day Friday. (F.O. Humber 2135/7).
Liverpool.	7 mines detonated to 1800/7. Details. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2138/7).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Shipping off Texel.

At 1140/6 in 52° 25' N. 4° 10' E. 6 small vessels in Convoy course North of West, sails set but travelling under own power. 10 miles West of above position 2 masted vessels, one flying Dutch Flag aft. (At 1320/6 in 53° 10' N. 4° 20' E. 3 vessels approx. 5,000 tons in inverted formation. (H.Q.B.C. 0012/7).

NORDFAHRT.

Using signal letters previously allotted to HAMMONIA, NORDFAHRT made S.O.S. in 58° 58' N. 10° 30' E. last night saying she was aground. (D.S. 549).

Minelaying Force.

Minelayer force of 4 small tb's and 3 small minelayers left Kelliso 1700/6 course 250°. Returned to Helliso 1100/7th course 105° speed 16 knots. (SEALION 1045/7).

Miscellaneous.

Campbeltown.

Obstructions are being laid. (Details). Request all ships may be warned and instructed to pass to the northward of these obstructions (GUARDIAN 1005/7).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Escorts for H.X. & S.C. Convoys.

Adty., 1343/7. See Operations Volume.

Convoy delays Conference.

Intended to hold a Conference in Trade Division at 1500/11, and requested it may be attended by a representative on your staff and also by N.C.S.O's. The principal subject is reduction of convoy delays and includes possibility of running a coastal convoy from Southend to Clyde instead of Southend to Methil and Methil to Clyde. Also possibility of homeward bound ships in convoy bound for East Coast ports proceeding direct to Methil without calling at Oban or Loch Ewe. (D.T.D. 1507/7 to C. in C's W.A. Rosyth, Nore.

Coastal Convoys.

E.N.U. 81. 0645/7 unescorted 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 0758/7), Name (D759/7.) Arrived 7 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1204/7.)

F.S.29. COTTESMORE not yet detached (LONDON, 0801/7), 48 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0937/7, 0939/7.) COTTESMORE to detach earliest moment for F.S.29. (C. in C. Nore to LONDON 1046/7.) Detached at 1035 (LONDON, 1223/7) List (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1229/7.) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1230/7) COTTESMORE to overtake after fuelling. (C. in C. Rosyth 1620/7.)

E.N.82. 0800/7. Escorts 20 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0933/7 amended 1157/7). List (1008/7.) 1 destination amended. (N.C.S.O. Lyness 1010/7). Amendments to list. (C. in C. Rosyth 1113/7.)

/F.N.25.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

F.N.25. Absentees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0940/7.) Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 1740/7.)

F.N.26. EDWARDIAN additional escort. (Cdre.,i/c. Sheerness, 0941/7.) 0837/7, 28 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1116/7) 1 sailing (N.C.S.O. Harwich, 1237/7.) BEGONIA to R.V. (F.O., Humber, 1258/7). No ships from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1802/7.)

W.N.95(O). 1600/7. Escorts. 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1009/7.) Sailed 1615/7. (1650/7.)

F.S.28. Position, 30 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1101/7.) Orders to escort. (C. in C. Nore, 1207/7) Arrived all ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1929/7.)

F.S.29A. VERONICA to join. (C. in C. Rosyth 1127/7) Code word "Plumb". (C. in C. Rosyth, 1442/7), 14 ships (N.C.S.O.Methil 2357/7.)

7 M.V.'s. (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1133/7.) Escorts (C. in C. Portsmouth 1237/7.) Sailed C. in C. Portsmouth 1905/7, N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1957/7.)

F.S.26. List. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1139/7.)

F.N. and F.S. Amending 1214/6, escorts. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1143/7.)

W.N. 97. CELIA additional escort. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1208/7.)

C.W.28. Time table. Escorts. (C. in C. Nore, 1240/7.)

/7 M.V.'s...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

Coastal Convoys.
Contd.

7 M.V.'s. Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1547/7.)

9 M.V.'s. "Scent" Escorts. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 2137/7.)

F.N. & F.S. Forecast of sailing and escorts. (C. in C. Rosyth 2213/7.)

TIRADENTES. Broke away from E.N. convoy and proceeded independently. Did Master give any indication of this intention? What speed did he declare? (D.T.D. 1856/7 to N.C.S.O. Methil.) Your 1856/7. Master gave no indication. Declared 11 knots. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2116/7.)

ORONTES. Request you sail ORONTES to arrive off Avonmouth at daylight/9. My 1705/6 is to be waived in this case. Requested arrange fighter cover.(C. in C. W.A., 2058/7, to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
ORONTES is to be sailed from Clyde to catch tide at Avonmouth at 1653/9 B.S.T. (D.T.D. 2122/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

Ocean Convoys.

O.B. 293.
S.C. 23. Attacked by U/B 0450/7. See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN. Route to avoid U/B. (C. in C. W.A., 0755/7 to AMBUSCADE, ABERDEEN, etc.,) Destinations. (D.T.D., 1241/7. 1242/7.)

S.L.65. E.T.A. (VOLUNTEER 1032/7) VOLUNTEER to escort Bristol portion. (VANOC, 1158/7) Arrivals. N.C. S.O. Oban, 2035/7.)

S.L.67. F.O.C.N.A. 1228/6. ARETHUSA to accompany U.K. (D.O.D. (H) 1341/7 to C. in C. H.F., F.O.C.N.A.)

O.G.O.55. 0830/8, ARAB., 14 ships. N.C.S.O. Oban 1530/7.)

/O.G.55.....

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Shipping & Convoys Contd.

O.G.55.	Sailed, escort EGRET, etc., (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1639/7.) Sailed 1639/7, 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1651/7.) List (1652/7.)
S.C.25.	Destinations. (D.T.D., 1855/7.)
O.B.M.295.	Sailed 1905/7, Escort 6. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1906/7.) List (1910/7.)
O.B.M.296.	Sailing 1620/9, Escort, 11. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1906/7.)
H.X.116.	Cruiser to escort. (D.O.D.H. 1924/7.) See America & West Indies.

Military Convoys.

BRITANNIA. THEMISTOCLES. CITY OF HONG KONG.	Admty., 1904/6. Intend HILARY from Clyde for Western Patrol area S.1.shall join convoy for outward A/S escort. Request R/V and fighter protection may be arranged. (V.A.N.P. 1230/7, to A.C.W.A.) Your 1904/6. Ships will be unable to sail until 0730/12. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1310/7, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

TAKU. (Corrupt group). If conditions permit H.M.S. TAKU is to be towed to Holy Loch. (C. in C. W.A. 0020/7 to ENCHANTRESS, TAKU.)

GENERAL BOTHA. GENERAL BOTHA being towed southward by trawler position at 0145 20 "G" buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 0148/7.)

HOPECREST. HOPECREST requires four tugs immediately straining badly amidships Scarweather Patch. (Portishead Radio 0650/7, Burnham-on-Sea, 0755/7.)
Position of the vessel at the moment is such that urgent attention is necessary to avoid further complications of a various and serious nature. The first tug VICTOR made fast 10.50 a.m. MONTANA 11.20 a.m., BROCKENHURST 11.35 a.m., and HERCULANEUM at 11.45 a.m. and towing proceeded until 15.45 p.m. In my opinion at least 2 tugs should remain with the tow to assist in minimising the bumping. The towing efforts have been moderately successful, and should be continued without delay. Signed James Hardy, Master. Ends. (N.O.I.C. Swansea, 2100/7.)

FRANKLIN. London March 7th departure FRANKLIN at 0845. (P.O.I.C. London 0940/7.)

More ships out of action. My 0720/6. Ships out of action amend dates of COTSWOLD and FRANKLIN to read 26/3, and 9/3, respectively. (C. in C. More 0944/7.)

DIDO. Considered desirable before proceeding Scapa P.R.O. Glasgow should examine damage to ship structure sustained during heavy weather. Motor boat and one whaler damaged beyond local repair. E.T.A. 1830/7. (D.I.D.O. 1148/7.)

/Arrived.....

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

Arrived DIDO with hull defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1930/7.)

BALTARA. In company with BALTARA in 050° 21' N., 022° 15' W., BALTARA has 14 feet water in engine room bulkhead holding. Master states he cannot tow North unless pumped and wish to be towed to Azores. Weather moderate wind 330° force 3 barometer 30.46 falling. Can salvage tug be sent if not request instructions. (ST. ELSTAN. 1640/7.)

SOUTHERN ISLES. 1521/4. Owing to further defects. (?) of SOUTHERN ISLES for P.M./8, is cancelled. (SOUTHERN ISLES 2041/7.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Destroyer.

French 3 funnel destroyer 14 miles off Cape St. Vincent at 1000/7 steering N. (S.O.I., Gib., 1113/7 to Admty.,)(Note:- First received as a 3 funnel ship.) S.O. (I) Gibraltar's 1113/7. Is this a Warship? (D.O.D. (F) 1306/7 to F.O.C.N.A.) Your 1306/7. Yes. (Gibraltar 1427/7.) My 1113 French Destroyers now Marking T.23 290° Cape Espichel 8 miles steering 010° at 1500. (S.O.I. Gib., 1707/7.)

REPULSE.

My 1704/5, (5 destroyers to R.V. with REPULSE.). Delete DUNCAN. (F.O.C.N.A. 1210/7. to REPULSE.

VERBENA.
GENTIAN.

Your 1732/20/2. (Re allocation of convoys) GENTIAN not fitted for tropical service. VERBENA has these modifications and is adequately fitted for service in warm climates. Request retaining VERBENA at Gibraltar instead of GENTIAN. (F.O.C.N.A., 1232/7, to C. in C. W.A.) Reply: 1255/11.

BELGIQUE.

Your 1630/4. Commerce Section tell me matter settled and ship discharging Cadiz. Delay due to need for London to lower price. (N.A. Madrid, 1235/7, to F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Operation "Ration".

Admty.,1814/6 and my 1626/6. Following destroyer commitments are impending: It will not therefore be possible to consider operation "RATION" before about (date) as far as destroyers are concerned. In view of para. 2 of Admty., 2327/19/10/40, and forces based on Casablanca and Oran it is necessary to employ a cruiser at least as support force. No cruiser will be available until return of SHEFFIELD escorting MAIDSTONE in accordance with Admty., 1903/6. Unless there are reasons to the contrary of which I am not aware propose it should be left to me to suggest date for this operation. (F.O.C.N.A. 1240/7 to Admty.)

/My 1814/6.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

My 1814/6. Operation "RATION" is not to be carried out without further instructions Request report as to when you expect to have Forces available. (V.C.N.S. 1340/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ANNA BERG. — Your 2227/6. (Re boarding of Finnish Steamer ANNA BERG.). My 1232/6 refers. (F.O.C.N.A. 1304/7, to Admty.)

ARETHUSA S.L.67. — F.O.C.N.A. 1228/6. ARETHUSA is to accompany convoy U.K. C. in C. H.F. requested to give instructions for subsequent movements of ARETHUSA. (D.O.D. (H) 1341/7, to C. in C. H.F., F.O.C.N.A.)

Air Operations. — Daily Summary. Area covers 4° W., to 9° 30' W. Flying curtailed by weather. (200 Group, 1700/7.)

S.S.DERNA (Italian.) — Departure 6/3 for Genoa. (Barcelona 1735/7.

BRAKE LEESEE. — Departure 6/3, German BRAKE, LEESEE, Destination not known, probably France. (Bilbao, 1832/7 1914/7.)

STRATHMORE, SHEFFIELD, MALAYA, FIREDRAKE, FURY. — Your 1626/6, Para. 4. As STRATHMORE is due 10th it was presumed that you would sail her with SHEFFIELD on 11th in order to comply with para. 3 of my 1103/27. It would appear that outward escort for them could be provided by the screen going out for MALAYA. This is first information in Admiralty of extent of damage to FIREDRAKE or FURY being out of action. (D.O.D. (F) 2032/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/0.23.....

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

O.23.	Proceed direct to Gibraltar (route). Report if unable to comply within two hours time stated. (F.O.C.N.A. 2052Z/7, to O.23.)
S/M's.	Position of S/M at 1200/8 and movements for the 24 hours. PANDORA with H.G.55. Netherlands S/M O.21 with O.G.54, Netherlands S/M O.23 035° 40' N., 013° 20' W., proceeding through 035° N., 012° W., to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2100/7.)
OTUS O.23.	Sailing probably delayed owing to defects. Suggest Netherlands O 23 be ordered by you to proceed direct to Gibraltar at normal speed.(F.O.S., 2131/7, to F.O.C.N.A.)
HAARLEM MIRROR LEYLAND.	Departure 1430 HAARLEM to relieve LEYLAND escorting cable ship MIRROR. Arrival 2150 LEYLAND. (S.O.I. Gib., 2300/7.)
Escort for REPULSE.	Departures FEARLESS, FORESIGHT, FORTUNE, FOXHOUND in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s. 1704/5. (S.O.I. Gib., 2316/7.)

South Atlantic.

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.	Admiralty 1653/23/2. Request I may be informed whether ship is still to be retained at Durban. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0943Z/7, to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)
Former Disguised Freighters.	Your 2116/2. Could be used on S.Atlantic Stations. Suggestions. (C. in C.S.A., 1239M/7 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.
VILLE DE MAJUNGA.	Requisitioned by Union Gov., 4/3, carried following cargo (? for) (?Madagascar Ports. From Marseilles, and Dakar. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1103/7.)

/FALSPKIB.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7. 3. 1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

FALSPKIB
WRAY CASTLE.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1005/5. Swedish Ship FALSPKIB due Capetown 2/3, and WRAY CASTLE 3/3 both from U.K, not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1117B/7.)

PERSEUS.

Special movements forecast. Cancel my 1241/3. PERSEUS is at Accra. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1121B/7, to C. in C. E.I., etc.)

DORDRECHT.
raider
report.

R R R R Warship Raider position 6.57 N., 12. 49, W., DORDRECHT suspicious vessel. (Freetown W/T., T.O.R. 1255Z/7.)
From DORDRECHT (Holland). Vessel keeps following us corrected position 6 58 N.,12. 50 W., (Freetown W/T, T.O.R. 1317Z/7.)
If ship no longer appears suspicious you should cancel your RRRR distress message. (C. in C. S.A., 1708/7, to DORDRECHT.)

Convoy W.S.6.

Your 2017 /26. CORNWALL arrived St.Helena. Awaiting instructions. (CORNWALL, 1301Z/7, to C. in C. S.A.)

VILLE DE
STRASBOURG.

RANCHI escorting Vichy French Ship VILLE DE STRASBOURG. arrived. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1319Z/7.)

FRISCO.

My 1856/5.Italian FRISCO is getting into condition to sail, no vital parts of machinery moved. Authorities aware of preparations and Italian Consul is reported to have undertaken to communicate with authorities before sailing.(S.O.I. Montevideo, 15062/7, to Admty.)

EMPIRE ADVOCATE.

Has further repairs, will be delayed and sails S.L.69. (M.S.R. Freetown 1518/7 to M of S.)

/SAVORGNAN
DE BRAZZA.....

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.	Now decided SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA is to remain at Durban. Cancel all reference to her in A.T. 1832/6. (D.O.D.(F) 1636/7, to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.)
BULOLO.	N.O.I.C. Glasgow 2222/6. Unless contrary instructions are received from you before 0600/8 work on BULOLO will start on 8/3. (D.O.D.(F) 1705/7 to C. in C. S.A.) Admty 1905/6 and N.O. i/c. Glasgow 2222/6. Essential that either DUNNOTTAR CASTLE or BULOLO arrives Freetown by 28/3 for S.L.70. If DUNNOTTAR CASTLE cannot be sailed in time delay to BULOLO cannot be accepted and she should be sailed to arrive by 28/3. (C. in C. S.A., 1735/7, to Admty.)
RANCHI.	Sailed in accordance with C. in C. E.I., 12063/6. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1146Z/7.)
FAULKNOR. FORESTER.	F.O.C.N.A. 1626/6. FAULKNOR and FORESTER will have approx., 140 boiler hours remaining on arrival Gibraltar. (C. in C. S.A., 1953W/7, to Admty.)
HIGHLAND BRIGADE ADDA, CAPO OLMO TOUAREG.	Your 1533/5. In view of urgent need for HIGHLAND BRIGADE in South America request confirmation that this move cannot be carried out with ADDA, CAPO OLMO, and TOUAREG as suggested in my 0157/14/2. Request report whether Free French and West African troops were dealt with as proposed in my 2259/21/2 as proposals for re-allocation at Durban are dependent upon numbers on board each ship. (D.S.T. 2159/7 to C. in C. S.A.)
DELHI defects.	DELHI's 1143/1, and Adty., 1031/17/11/40, in view of N.O.I.C. Simonstown's report consider preparation should be made to retube all boilers completely at Singapore. (C. in C. S.A. 2347/7.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

CALCUTTA Piraeus Convoy.	HERO with 8 ships E.T.A. Piraeus Boom 2000/7. CALCUTTA ILEX and HASTY will leave convoy at Phleva Island and proceed to Suda Bay passing west of Belo Pulo for fuel. E.T.A. Suda Bay 0600/8. (CALCUTTA 0654/7 to N.A. Athens, S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).
ILLUSTRIOUS. LIVERPOOL.	Your 2337/4. Reply. (C. in C. Med., 1047/7 to Admty) (See Mediterranean Volume).
Italian destroyer seen damaged.	Photograph taken from prisoner of War show Italian Destroyer FOLGORE Class in dock with bow blown off to just forward of bridge superstructure. Date and place now known. Further enquiries being made. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1116/7). Comment by N.I.D. There is no information to suggest the identity of this destroyer or the occasion on which she was damaged.
M.T.B's.	Admty. 1557/10/2. Request following information may be signalled, of M.T.B's being sent. (C. in C. Med. 1125/7 to Admty).
UPHOLDER.	Leave patrol p.m./8 (route) arrive off Marsamxett 0700/10. (Cdr. S.1. 1205/7 to UPHOLDER).
Mining of Suez Canal.	3 sweeps by 3 DWI Wellingtons exploded 1 mine in Suez Canal 6/3. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1219/7).
ANFITRITE sunk by GREYHOUND.	GREYHOUND sank Italian U-Boat ANFITRITE in position 034° 55' N. 026° 43' E. at 0715/6. U-Boat was detected by asdic at range of 900 yards. One pattern dropping in top of U-Boat who at once surfaced. GREYHOUND opened fire obtained two hits on conning tower and killed six. U-Boat surrendered but was already sinking when boarded. Some documents were obtained about which further signal will be made. 39 prisoners including all officers. U-Boat had left Leros on 4/3. Suggest issuing following communique as knowledge of this success may deter other Italian U-Boats in this area during present important period in Aegean:- On 6/3 Italian submarine ANFITRITE attempted to attack one of our (?routine) Aegean convoys. She was sunk by escort craft. (C. in C. Med., 1505/7 to Admty).

/Air.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Air raid on Malta 5/3.	Re Fighters (C. in C. Med 1515/7) See Mediterranean Volume.
Malta Air Raids.	Combined services report Malta up to 1600 hours 7/3. Enemy air activity night 6/7. About 12 aircraft carried out individual attacks dropping bombs at St. Julians Grand Harbour Valletta Hal Far and Delimara. No Government damage. 7/3 4 JU. 88's and approximately 10 M.E. 109's came over at 1000 hrs. 7 Hurricanes up which engaged fighter formation. During this engagement 2 ME. 109's came in at 150 feet and machine gunned a Sunderland at moorings in St. Pauls Bay. Glenn Martin returning from Sicily was also attacked shot down and burnt out. Ground defences probably accounted for two of the attackers. 1500 approx. 20 enemy aircraft circled 20 miles north of Island but raid did not materialize. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1600/7).
A.N. 18.	1500/7. HELKA, ESCAUT, COMLIEBANK, HOLLANDIA, KEHREA, all for Piraeus. (R.A. Alexandria, 1801/7).
Minelaying, Cape Bon.	Information supports opinion that enemy minelaying took place on Cape Bon Tripoli route on 24/2. Do not approach within 15 miles of Kelibia or Kuriat. Submarines Central Mediterranean should avoid Headland. (Cdr. S.1. 1921/7 to UTMOST).
Enemy Intelligence.	Secret source considered reliable. My 1319/5 stated on 24/2 Italian cruisers ARMANDO DIAZ and BABBIANO passed Kelibia in a southerly direction. Between 10/2 and 1/3 34 cargo boats, of which five were German, passed Kelibia in a southerly direction. Troops and vehicles observed in 10 of these ships. (V.A. Malta, 1928/7).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.M.4.	Convoy B.M.4, Karachi portion arrived. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0447/7).
Suez Canal ~~met~~.	Your 1201/5 estimated Indian requirements ready for shipment within two months of placing order. Particulars. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0504Z/7 to C. in C. Med).
ERITREA.	S.O.I. Aden reports C. two that Italian escort ship ERITREA proceeded south with women and children on 21/2. Same source reports German and other ships are being cleaned up and "paint blackish" suggests movement. (C. in C. E.I. 0512Z/7).
CANADIAN CRUISER, use of U.S.A. markings.	My 0512/26/2. Further investigation indicates German Claim probably correct. (2) British Ship GHAUNIDA passed 1000 yards from CANADIAN CRUISER on 14/2 and noticed Red and White stripes but no stars painted on side. (3) Report (B.2) states Master of Cruiser when at Kolachel boasted of having escaped raider by use of American colours on voyage to Colombo and stated intention of again using American markings when outside Territorial Waters. (C. in C. E.I. 0610/7 to Admty).
C.F.1. HOBART. SYDNEY. AUSTRALIA.	A.C.N.B. 0315/7 and my 1132/6 Convoy C.F.1 will now leave Colombo 0530Z/8. Rendezvous for HOBART and SYDNEY with AUSTRALIA and convoy is (position and date) Concur that modified form of convoy from rendezvous onward be used. (C. in C. E.I. 0730/7 to F.O.C. Aust. Sqdn).
Troops for M.E.	Your 0833/6/1 and 1051/6/3. TALAMBA will carry out this move. (S.S.T.O. India 0807Z/7 to N.O.I.C. Mauritius);
U.S. Convoy.	Your 0538/1 and Admty. 2341/3. Could ships concerned proceed from Fremantle to Suez without replenishing with fuel and water? Not more than 1,000 tons of water can be supplied to each QUEEN MARY and QUEEN ELIZABETH at Trincomalee without causing serious delay. (C. in C. E.I. 1010Z/7 to A.C.N.B).

/Convoy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Convoy B.S.18.	Sailing telegram Port Sudan portion. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1115Z/7, 1117Z/7).
S.W.5 B. S.U. 2.	P.S.T.O. Egypt 1841/6. As ocean escort cannot now be made available for ships sailing from Suez on 10/3 it is requested that all ships carrying service personnel and for families be sailed from Suez (date). (ii) Request troopships ready to sail 10/3 except ATHLONE CASTLE be sailed as convoy S.W.5B., and ships ready to sail (date) and ATHLONE CASTLE be sailed as convoy S.U.2. If families can be transferred to a ship sailing on latter date for Durban, ATHLONE CASTLE can sail on 10/3. (C. in C. E.I. 1200Z/7 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal etc).
GLASGOW.	My 1120/3. Cancel reference GLASGOW. Request GLASGOW be sailed for Aden on 8/3 at 20 knots. (C. in C. E.I. 1202/7 to S.B.N.O Suez Canal).
COBURG. KETTY BROVIG.	My 1750/5. Result of further investigation and interrogation of prisoners. (CANBERRA 1805/7 to C. in C. E.I) Original in Lion Copy only.
U.S.10.	To facilitate provision of shipping for on-carriage of U.S.10. Personnel, request whether use could be made of troop accommodation on RANGITIKI and TAMAROA en route to New Zealand from Suez to assist in any of movements referred to in my 2300/21/2. (D.S.T. 2201/7 to P.S.T.O. Bombay)

China.

Oil stocks, Shanghai.	My 0427/4 (Maintenance of oil stocks at Shanghai) Panamanian Tanker CHINA will load Balik Papan for Texas Company Shanghai. Am enquiring whether Asiatic Petroleum Co. could send a tanker if required. (C. in C. China 0901Z/7 to Admty).
N.E.I. Naval patrols.	C. in C. China 1431Z/7, 0311Z/7, See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

HARBERTON.	Request reply my 1047/5 as ship is being held pending instructions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1034/7 to Admty).
Delays to tankers.	Your 1734/5. Due to faulty workmanship in weldingpipes, etc. CLEODORA delayed maximum 7 days. AMASTROJ delayed 7 days for new coil, SPINANGER delayed 24 hours D.G. repairs. (Willemstad D.W.I. 1110/7 to Admty).
S.S. SUFFOLK. "R" Report.	My 1038/27 DIOMEDE reports message cancelled. Referred to contact between DIOMEDE and BARFONN. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1115/7 to Admty etc).
H.X. and S.C. Convoys.	Re escorts (D.O.D.(H) 1343/7 to R.A.3). See Operations Volume. (Shipping & Convoys.).
Tankers.	Correcting address of 1734/5. (D.T.D. 1435/7 to S.N.O. Curacao, etc).
SURCOUF defects.	French Cruiser-submarine SURCOUF arrived with serious main battery defects. Hoped ship will be ready for sea within 15 days. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1437/7 to Admty).
ROYAL SOVEREIGN H.X. Convoy.	Departure H.M.S. ROYAL SOVEREIGN to overtake convoy H.X. 113 in accordance with Admty 1154/7. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1643/7).
U.S. Coastguard Cutters.	My 1729/27 Navy Dept. are asking whether the information regarding the armament required in coastguard cutters can now be supplied. (N.A. Washington 1650/7 to Admty). Your 1729/27. Offer of coastguard cutters cordially welcomed. Vessels would be acceptable in present condition with low angle armament only. high angle armament to be fitted in U.K. Ammunition for 5 inch guns would be required from U.S.A. both outfit and reserve, including practice. (Head of M. 1815/7 to N.A. Washington).

/VOLTAIRE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.3.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

VOLTAIRE. Your 1136/5/2 and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 2037/2/3. Request consideration to VOLTAIRE acting as ocean escort for K.G. MELDAHL. (D.O.D. (F) 1729/7 to F.O. 3 B.S).

ANNA KNUDSEN. Request reason for sailing to Halifax. (D.T.D. 1731/7 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda).

T.C.10. Your 1601/18/2. Under urgent consideration but do not expect to be able to provide for more than 5300 personnel to sail early April. (D.S.T. 1821/7 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.X. 116. My 1232/15/2. One cruiser is required to proceed to approx. 50° W. to act as Ocean escort to convoy H.X. 116 leaving Halifax (date). (D.O.D.(H) 1924/7 to C. in C. H.F). Admty 1343/7. As a result of withdrawal of SEVERN from your command difficulty in fulfilling your convoy commitments for S.C. 26 and H.X. 116 will be experienced. Escort for H.X. 116 will therefore be provided by a cruiser from the Home Fleet. (D.O.D. (H) 1925/7 to R.A.3).

Australia.

MENTOR. Your 1603/4. MENTOR arrived Sydney 24/2 due to leave Newcastle for Durban 8/3. (A.C.N.B. 0155Z/7 to Admty),

A.M.C's? Your 1642/3. (Requesting verification of 1st sentence in signal re 2 A.M.C's sailing from Australia early June). First sentence refers to Australian minesweepers coded as A.M.S. my 1316/21 was repeated to you vide my 1426/5. (A.C.N.B. 0214Z/7 to Admty).

/SYDNEY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.3.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (contd).

SYDNEY.
HOBART.
C.F.I.

Admty 0128/6. It is not intended to move SYDNEY and HOBART to Tasman Sea for the present. Propose therefore that SYDNEY and HOBART R/V with convoy C.F.1 as early as possible. If you concur request R.V. to F.O.C. Australian Sqn. When escort is reinforced by SYDNEY and HOBART suggest modified form of convoy be used. (A.C.N.B. 0315Z/7 to C. in C. E.I).

Convoy.

ADELAIDE escorting ANATINA, THORDIS and CLAN MCDONALD departed Brisbane for New Sealand 0431Z/7. (A.C.N.B. 1747Z/7).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.3.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

DELILIAN. (British 6423 tons), SSSS DELILIAN torpedoed 60. 28 N., 13 38 W., (Lyness, T.O.R. 0507/7.).
SSSS. DELILIAN torpedoed 60.28 N. 13.38, West 0409/7 bearing from Malin Head Radio 325°. Bearing from Wick Radio. 293° approx. (Liverpool W/T, 0515/7. T.O.R. 0616/7.).
Sunderland leaves Sullom Voe daylight hunt S/M which torpedoed DELILIAN (position.). (C.in C. Rosyth, 0558/7.).

ATHELBEACH. (British 6568 tons). The following has been read. At 0542 G.M.T. ATHELBEACH torpedoed approx., posn., 60. 30 N. 13 30 W. 2nd., torpedo. (DELILIAN via Wick Radio, T.O.R. 0644/7.).

MIJDRECHT. (Dutch tanker 7593 tons). Following has been read:- SSSS. 60. 31 N., 13 53 W., approx., MIJDRECHT torpedoed 0632/7. (Lyness W/T, T.O.R. 0732/7.).
Proceed in company with all despatch to position 60° 28' N. 13° 38' W., where DELILIAN, ATHELBEACH and MIJDRECHT torpedoed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0721/7, 0802/7.).
OB 293 attacked by submarine 0450 in position 060° 30' N., 013° 30' W. ATHELBEACH DELILIAN and MIJDRECHT and one or other torpedoed. Have attacked and lost possible submarine contact. CAMELLIA and ARBUTUS ordered to stand by for casualties.
WOLVERINE and CHELSEA remaining with convoy. (weather). (WOLVERINE, 0744/7, to C.in C. W.A.).
Request you will sail KING SOL forthwith to R.V. with ST. OLAVES and BRIGAND in position 000° 5 miles from Butt of Lewis at 1430/7, and escort them to position 60° 28' N., 13° 38' W., where DELILIAN, ATHELBEACH, and MIJDRECHT have been torpedoed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0938/7 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.).

/ CAPE COMORIN ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.3.1941. Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

CAPE COMORIN — CAPE COMORIN reports being fired at by torpedo at 2145/6 in position 056° N. 010° 05' W.
(DIDO, 0945/7, to C.in C. W.A.).

KING SOL will R.V. with you in position 000° 5 miles from Butt of Lewis at 1430/7 and escort you to position given in my 0721/7 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0945/7 to BRIGAND ST. OLAVES).

ATHELBEACH, DELILIAN, MIJDRECHT, TERJE VIKEN — W A C 5 Section 3 Part 19.
(a) WOLVERINE obtained contact astern of Convoy at 0506, lost at 500 yards, pattern five dropped at 0510, contact not regained, doubtful submarine.
(b) Starboard, one rocket at 0450 red light 0451.
(c) Destroyers one ahead one astern of corvette one each beam.
(d) ATHELBEACH 71 DELILIAN 61 believed first attack in station TERJE VIKEN, 63, MIJDRECHT, 75, probably out of station. ATHELBEACH able to proceed, other 3 not known.
(e) 0450/7 observed position 060° 21' N. 013° 58' W.
(f) 328° 4½ Hurricane than 80° to port until next attack.
(g) Good, light northerly wind visibility 12 cables black cloud sleet later.
(h) Two ollers torpedoed in 7 minutes, third one hour later, fourth one hour 40 minutes later. A second torpedo at ATHELBEACH at 0645. Last two ships did not turn with Commodore. (WOLVERINE 1339/7 to Admty.).
ATHELBEACH sunk by submarine U 41 at 0600, have 35 survivors. Am proceeding with DELILIAN (torpedoed in No. 1 hold) in company. My p. c. and s. are 060° 05' 013° 12' 115° 5.5. My A/S set unreliable.
(CAMELIA, 1400/7 to C.in C. W.A.).

TERJE VIKEN — Torpedoed twice, left 0800 on S.E. course.
(1600/7, see S/M's Attacked).
Following has been read. SSSS TERJE VIKEN sinking after two torpedoes, position approx. 59° 30' N., 12° W.
(Lyness, T.O.R. 1740/7.).
Intercepted at 1642 G.M.T. S S S S TERJE VIKEN now sinking after 2 torpedoes. Approx.position 59.30 N. 12 W. (Port Patrick Radio, 1742/7).

/ MIJDRECHT
TERJE VIKEN ....

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

MIJDRECHT
TERJE VIKEN

Am leaving MIJDRECHT (Torpedoed). Speed 9 knots bound for Clyde through Minch to assist TERJEVIKEN. My Position is 059° 20' N. 010° 30' W.
(LADY LILIAN, 1800/7, to C.in C. W.A.).
Proceed forthwith to TERJE VIKEN torpedoed in 059° 30' N. 012° 00' W. at 1742/7.
(A.C.W.A., 1806/7 to HURRICANE).
My 0721 and 0802. Proceed through position 59° 30' N. 12° 00' W. where TERJE VIKEN was torpedoed at 1740 today. HURRICANE has been despatched to stand by. ATHELBRAGH sunk. DELILIAN proceeding with CAMELIA at 5.1/2 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1955/7, to ST. OLAVES BRIGAND KING SOL.).
If not in contact rejoin Convoy (O.B.293) with despatch.
(C.in C. W.A., 2301/7, to CHELSEA).

Unknown Ship.

Following received:- Addressed Admiral Lyness From Wick Radio Received at 2110 G.M.T. on 435 k/cs from Naval Station Mas begins at 2047 G.M.T. heard on 500 k/cs S S S S DE G (and that was all.).
Strength 2. 2210/7 Ends.
(Scapa W/T - 2220/7).
One ship torpedoed and sinking in 062° 57' 30" N. 001° 30' E.
(BERKELEY 2317/7).
My 2317 2nd Ship torpedoed.
(BERKELEY 2339/7).
Your 2358/7. Found large oil patch in a position to 060° 00' N. 012° 46' W. also wreckage including one boat and raft but no survivors or bodies in position 060° 18' N. 013° 41' W. Intend continuing search until dark then returning to Kirkwall. E.T.A. 0800/10.
(VISENDA 1410/8, to S.O.N.T.).

Submarines Reported.

0410. Reference Adty. Message AF. Position 60° 28' N: 15° 38' W. at 0410/7 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0546/7.).

1310. U-Boat sighted by A/C in 053° 30' N. 017° 00' W. at 1310/7.
(C.in C. W.A. 1440/7 to Area B).

/ 0830. ....

MOST SECRET.

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7.3.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

0830. Submarine sighted on surface for 5 minutes in 060° 24' N. 001° 43' W. at 0830 today. Submarine dived on a northerly course. Report graded C.3. (A.C.O.S. 1617/7).

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1409/7.) (F.O.S., 1521/7 to S/M's Area B.).

Submarines Attacked.

2230/6. MANSFIELD reports good contact 055° 56' N. 010° 06' W. at 2230/6. (C.in C. W.A. 0339/7, to ENCHANTRESS, TAKU, CALDWELL.).

0744. Contact attacked by WOLVERINE (see Ships Attacked 0744/7).

U.70 sunk by ARBUTUS

In company with CAMELIA have attacked contact established position 60.15 N., 13.53 W. Request aerial co-operation. (ARBUTUS, 1039/7, to C.in C. W.A.).
Submarine surface, crew abandoned submarine. (ARBUTUS, 1300/7, to C.in C. W.A.).
Your 1300/7. Well done. Tugs are being sent to torpedoed ships. One Corvette is to stand by until tug arrives report situation. VISENDA has also been sent to assist. (C.in C. W.A. 1555/7, to ARBUTUS).
Sank U Boat at 1318 Captain Matz and 24 other prisoners. Have also 17 survivors DELILIAN. Returning Liverpool. All depth charges expended. TERJE VIKEN torpedoed twice was left 0800 proceeding at 8 knots, S.E. course.
(? omitted 1600/7 to C.in C. W.A.).
Your 1300/7.
Name and Number of U/B is urgently required. (D.D.I.C. 1728/7 to ARBUTUS).
Your 1300/7. Report name and number of U/Boat. (C.in C. W.A., 1801/7 to ARBUTUS).
Your 1728 name partially obscure DEU only visible no number on vessel. From prisoner believed U 76, name of Captain Matz, vessel appeared new. From one diary, left Heligoland 23/2 on first trip. Same diary states U (?70).
(ARBUTUS, 1845/7, to Admty.).
My 1845, almost certain U 70 not U 76.
(ARBUTUS, 1930/7, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

E boat attacks.

Measures are being taken to meet the increasing scale of E boat attack off the coast of East Anglia. These include rearrangement of convoy sailings and strengthening of escorts.

The E boat attacks on Convoys F N 26 and F S 29 which commenced early last night continued until the early hours of this morning. (Summarised in 7/3).

U Boat Campaign. S.S.EMPIRE ATTENDANT, DUNAFF HEAD torpedoed.

Convoy O B 293 was attacked again shortly after midnight 7/8 March and S.S.EMPIRE ATTENDANT was torpedoed. S.S.DUNAFF HEAD is also believed to have been torpedoed. WOLVERINE attacked the U boat.

At 1540 BEVERLEY sighted a U boat on the surface about 200 miles N.W. of the Butt of Lewis and attacked, but her port engine broke down and she was unable to obtain a contact when the U boat dived. ABERDEEN also attacked a contact about 45 miles S.E. of BEVERLEY's attack, at 1924.

British Air Activity.

Owing to unsuitable weather all operations by Bomber Command for last night and tonight were cancelled. Two Blenheims attacked the docks at Den Helder today.

Routine patrols in the North Sea were curtailed owing to bad weather. Air escort was provided throughout the day for convoys in the N.W.Approaches. Convoy S C 23 was escorted until 2300 and F N 27 all night.

Enemy Air Activity.

Several attacks on shipping took place today in the Western Approaches. PEREGRINE II reported being bombed and

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Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

gunned off the Bishop Rock this morning, but no damage is reported. S.S.NURGIS (Norwegian) was sunk, MARGO slightly damaged and SLEMISH and ARTHUR WRIGHT had casualties as the result of an attack on a coastal convoy early this afternoon, S.E. of Lands End Convoy O B 294 was attacked in the Western Approaches, but no damage is reported.

S.S.KMICIC (Polish) is reported to have been bombed today N.W. of Holyhead and had one casualty but no damage.

S.S.PRINS FREDERICK HENDRIK, a straggler from Convoy O B M 295 was hit and abandoned this morning 20 miles north of St.David's Head.

A/T NADINE states that she severely damaged an a/c which attacked her this morning east of Lowestoft; the plane was last seen diving towards the sea and on fire.

Lowestoft was bombed this morning by an aircraft which was shot down. No naval damage occurred.

Grail Aerodrome was slightly damaged by attack this afternoon.

Sanday Island A.M.E. station was bombed today. Some damage was caused and there were some civilian workmen casualties, but the R.D.F. gear is undamaged. Temporary A A defences are to be installed pending the consideration of permanent defences.

Mining.

Minelaying by a few enemy aircraft last night is suspected off Falmouth and Plymouth.

Parachute mines were seen and heard to drop in the Thames Estuary this evening.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Contd.)

Mines exploded today off Tynemouth and the Tyne was closed.

The Humber was opened about noon. Several mines were exploded.

Fowey was opened after being closed for over a fortnight.

Mines were detonated off Swansea, Yarmouth, Falmouth, and a large explosion occurred in the Thames Estuary.

North Atlantic.

U boat attack on Convoy S L 67 5 ships torpedoed.

Convoy S L 67 escorted by MALAYA was attacked by a submarine at 0400Z today about 200 miles west of Cape Blanco. S.S.LAHORE and 4 other ships were sunk.

SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU sighted.

At 1700 today MALAYA, escorting Convoy S L 67 about 130 miles west of Cape Blanco sighted a large German warship about 40 miles away steering 245°, and about an hour later she reported two German battle cruisers (SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU). MALAYA retired on her convoy and the enemy were lost to sight at 1829Z.

Force H raised steam, and RENOWN and ARK ROYAL left Gibraltar at 2214 with ARETHUSA, screened by VELOX and WRESTLER. Admiral Somerville ordered REPULSE and FURIOUS (escorting STRATHMORE) in to Gibraltar, the former to fuel and R.V. with him on 11/3.
(For effect of sighting of German battle cruisers on convoy escort arrangements see 9/3).

Mediterranean.

It is stated that the Italian communique today admits that "a warship of medium tonnage sank in the Mediterranean through unknown causes." This is probably the

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Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

vessel torpedoed by UPRIGHT on 25/2, and confirms the reasoned opinion expressed by C-in-C Med. on 5/3, that the ship sunk was a cruiser of the CONDOTTIERI "A" class.

Three Blenheims bombed Tripoli harbour last night. A further 10,000 lbs. of bombs were dropped by Wellingtons today.

Motor boat DARD (loaned by Suez Canal Co.) was mined and sunk whilst sweeping in the Canal today.

East Indies.

Convoy C F.1. AUSTRALIA left Colombo this morning escorting the first Colombo - Fremantle convoy, C F.1 (empty).

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Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A/S Trawlers.	Your 1623/5. Re Loss of LINCOLN CITY. Request another A/S Trawler may be allocated to the Orkney and Shetland Command. (A.C.O.S. 1246/8 to Admty).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Glasgow.	Recommendations of a meeting held on 27/2 in the preparation of a Scheme for the quick evacuation of the Port of Glasgow in case of need. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2303/8).

Movements.

PETUNIA.	Delayed by weather. Will not reach 063° 15'N., 022° 00'W., until 1400/8. (F.O.Iceland, 0023/8).
ST. OLAVES.	Deck gear washed adrift quarter flooded in heavy sea. Sheltering East Loch Roag until weather moderates. (ST. OLAVES 0810/8).
OTUS.	Sailing postponed at least 48 hours. Request F.O.C.N.A. pass to S.8. and S.O. Force H. (S.5. 0915/7, 1617/8).
H.34.	Sheerness 8/3. Sailed with Convoy F.N.27 for Methil H.M. S/M H.34 at 0830. (C.in C. Nore, 1010/8).
M.G.B's.	HORNET's 1926/6. Sailed 1000/8. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1011/8).

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WAR DIARY.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

M.G.B's. (Contd.)	My 1011/8, returned Harbour due defects and weather. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1106/8).
NELSON Flag of C.in C. H.F.	A.S. Rosyth 1232/6 and 1818/7. Intend NELSON should enter Rosyth basin 20/3 for docking and to give leave. Request more important defects be dealt with during above period. Intend to transfer my flag temporarily to KING GEORGE V. (C.in C. H.F. 1336/8).
KING SOL.	Return to Loch Ewe. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1501/8).
TUNA.	Following movements may affect you. (Details). (F.O.(S) 1537/8 to TUNA).
FERNIE CLEVELAND.	Cancel my 1309. Intend sailing FERNIE and CLEVELAND E.T.D. 2300 E.T.A. Needles 0745/9. Route. Lights. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1546/8).
010.	Submarine 010 escorted by WALKER may be met proceeding from Rothesay to Holyhead. (C.in C. W.A. 1802/8 to HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, NORTHERN DAWN, 1807/8 to CASTLETON, BURWELL).
SEALION orders.	Do not approach within 20 miles of Stadtlandet. (F.O.(S) 1847/8 to SEALION). My 1847. After arrival of SUNFISH and URGE this restriction will be withdrawn by Capt: (S) 6. (F.O.S. 1941/8th).

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

E/Boat attack on Convoys F.N.26 and F.S.29 7/3 and 8/3. DOTTEREL, CORDUFF, BOULDERSPOOL, TOGSTON, KENTON, torpedoed, SHELDRAKE, damaged.

5 enemy in sight bearing 280, position 52° 44'N., 2° 14'E.
(PYTCHLEY 0003/8).
My 0003 have lost contact.
(PYTCHLEY 0041/7).
F.S.29 attacked by E/Boats one mile North Smiths Knoll.
(PUFFIN 0038/8).
Am attacking E/Boat 2 miles North of Smiths Knoll.
(PUFFIN 0050/8).
1 M/V torpedoed sinking immediately in approx. 305 Smiths Knoll Buoy 2 lost contact with E/Boat am searching for survivors.
(PUFFIN, 0105/8).
E/Boat believed damaged moved away to N.E.
(PUFFIN, 0115/8).
My 0105. Ship torpedoed S.S. TOGSTON. Sank immediately, have picked up 11 survivors including Master, 8 missing believed killed in explosion. Am proceeding to rejoin convoy.
(PUFFIN, 0140/8, 0710/8).
Intercept from Humber Radio at 0051 G.M.T. From 51 to 10 begins: Picked up 12 men from KENTON 1 injured man still on board my boat cannot get alongside. Request send assistance position off Buoy 8.
(F.O.Humber, 0152/8).
Following received addressed Falmouth from KROOMAN. Have located steamer. Floundered. (as received) will return to harbour pending further orders.
(via N.Foreland Radio, 0816/8).
CROMER reports thirteen survivors landed from S.S. CORDUFF.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0915/8).
Cromer reports S.S. CORDUFF London to Hartlepool sunk 1030 by No.8 Buoy, by E/Boats. Lists of casualties.
(N.C.S.O. Yarmouth 0925/8).
Following received addressed Yarmouth from KROOMAN. Have sighted S.S. KENTON stern completely under water. Towing operations hopeless.
(North Foreland Radio 1225/8).

/1. Ships

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Following is information at present available of casualties due to E/Boats last night Friday Saturday.

1. Ships known to be sunk, S.S. BOULDER-POOL approx. 52° 58'N., 01° 28'E.
S.S. TOGSTON approx. 305° 2 miles from Smiths Knoll Light Buoy. CORDUFF sunk at 8 Buoy.

2. Believed sunk, S.S. DOTTEREL, position unknown after being torpedoed twice.

3. Torpedoed and ashore badly damaged, 1½ miles N.W. of Mundesley S.S. KENTON.

4. SHELDRAKE port propeller and shaft damaged by explosion of second torpedo that hit DOTTEREL. One officer and one rating missing believed killed.

5. Survivors.

6. Aircraft have located boats with other survivors. Trawlers from Yarmouth searching.
(C.in C. Nore, 1308/8, F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1345/8).
Add to my 1308/8 both SHELDRAKE and PUFFIN engaged E/Boats and believe they damaged them severely.
(C.in C. Nore, 1424/8).
Great Yarmouth 1455/8 departure tug DIVERSION (late NORMAN) to help S.S. DOTTEREL reported 2 miles west of 7 A buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1505/8).
DOTTEREL ashore East Scroby salvage attempts proceeding. 16 survivors, 8 missing.
(N.C.S.O. Yarmouth, 2010/8).

KASTERHOLM, intercepted.

My position at 1000 062° 33'N., 013° 02'W. KASTERHOLM with armed guard course 102° Skopen due Mygganeas 0800/9. Am parting until relieved at 1200. Resume patrol.
(VASCAMA 1030/8, to LORD AUSTIN).

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Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Operation Q.D.	Weather permitting operation Q.D. will be carried out tonight, (C.in C. Nore, 1137/8, 1139/8).
Re W/T Watches.	To be set on receipt of signal from C.in C. Nore that there is enemy E/Boat activity. (C.in C. Nore, 1151/8).
Operation D.N.	C.in C. H.F. 1531/8 see Operations Volume.
A/S Striking Forces, Western Approaches.	Intended to operate A/S striking Forces in Western Approaches. Details. (C.in C. W.A. 2021/8) See Lion Copy Only.
COSSACK MAORI ZULU. (11th A/S S.F.)	Captain (D) 4 with COSSACK, MAORI and ZULU will operate as A/S striking force with Convoy O.B.296 returning with Convoy S.C.24. Captain (D) Liverpool to inform Captain (D) 4 of names of all ships detailed for escort in due course and to inform ships of escort group that striking force will be operating. This striking force will be addressed as 11th A/S striking force until return to Scapa. (C.in C. W.A. 2250/8).

British Air Activity.

Flying of Balloons and Kites.	A212 7/3. Ref: A269/27/2 and Admty. 1054/27. Instructions given apply to Admty. Balloons and Kites and not to Channel Convoy which will continue operation as formerly, 1230. (H.Q.F.C. 0256/8).
Attack on Lorient required.	As there are 12 U/Boats in Lorient 6 of which are in dry dock, request Bomber Command may be asked to deliver a heavy attack at the first opportunity. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1314/8).

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

A/A and A/S escorts. Method of operating. (C.in C. W.A. 1734/8, 1743/8).

Anti E/Boat. Patrols. 1 Aircraft on patrol from 2200 until 2359 east of searched channels between 052° 30' and 053° N, may drop flares and attack any E/Boat seen. (C.in C. Nore, 2151/8).

Enemy Air Activity.

ST. ROGNVALD. AAAA ST. ROGNVALD 20 E. Noss. (Portishead W/T 0226/8). This is a British A/C dropping flares to find his bearing. No attack made on ST. ROGNVALD, latter did not open fire. (C.G.Wick, 0420/8, R.A.F. L.O.Lerwick, 1615/8).

Unknown. AAAA. Attacked by aircraft No. 8 Buoy. (Liverpool, W/T 0740/8).

PEREGRINE II. Position Bishop and Clerks 15 miles N.N.W. bombed and gunned. (PEREGRINE II 1038/8).

Brightlingsea attacked 7/3. Damage. (Works, Shotley, 1042/8).

Convoy. Fighters being sent to Convoy MISSION. (Lyness W/T 1205/8).

Lowestoft enemy A/C destroyed. Lowestoft bombed at 1116 by enemy aircraft which was destroyed and fell in sea, Lowestoft 110° 6 miles. No Naval casualties or damage. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 1220/8).

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Unknown ship.	Two enemy planes circling off Porthcurno. (SCILLONIAN, 1223/8). AAAA de GMDX Unknown ship bombed three miles south Porthcurno. (SCILLONIAN 1227/8).
Convoy.	On enemy aircraft shadowing convoy ONSET in 53° 16'N., 14° 16'W. (WANDERER 1217/8). Help enemy bombing convoy ONSET. (WANDERER 1223/8). Long range enemy aircraft are operating in your vicinity. Attack may be expected by aircraft or U/Boats. (D.D.I.C. 1409/8 to WANDERER).
Crail Aerodrome.	At about 1225 today a Ju 88 attacked Crail Aerodrome. Dropped two bombs near reserve hangars. Slight damage, no Service casualties. (R.A.N.A.S. 1245/8, 1546/8 Crail, 1315/8).
Convoy O.B.M.295, PRINS FREDERIK HENDRIK hit and abandoned.	Unknown ship reports bombed 1138 today estimated 20 miles north of St. David's Head. Crew have taken to boats. Motor Launch 167 Fishguard Lifeboat and Rescue Tug GOLIATH proceeding position. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1312/8 to VOLUNTEER) and(1411/8). A/S Trawler HUDDERSFIELD TOWN reports O.B.M. 295 attacked by single aircraft at 1130 today and suspect Dutch PRINS FREDERIK HENDRIK straggler last seen in 52° 13'N., 5° 31'W. received direct hit. Attack not witnessed by HUDDERSFIELD TOWN British INVERLEN with convoy machine gunned, no damage, no casualties. It is known PRINS FREDERIK HENDRIK abandoned and on fire. This is evidently the ship referred to in my 1312/8 not to Admty. Trawler STAR OF LIBERTY, M/L 167, Fishguar lifeboat and Rescue tug GOLIATH proceeded to search. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1545/8).
AFTERGLOW bombed 7/3.	Anchored off Yarmouth. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1345/8). Damaged under water. No casualti (N.C.S.O. Yarmouth, 2010/8).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

FLASHLIGHT (bombed 7/3). — Wreck of S.S. FLASHLIGHT lies in 53° 31' 22" N. 00° 48' 30" E. (F.O. Humber 1740/8).

Sanday I.A.M.E. Station. — At 1200 single enemy aircraft type unknown, dropped four bombs from very low height on Sanday Island. One bomb exploded on A.M.E. Station killing one civilian workman and injuring six, remainder UX. 12 huts damaged but R.D.F. gear undamaged. Fighters from Skaebrae endeavoured to intercept but were prevented by low cloud and poor visibility. (A.C.O.S. 1830/8).

S.S. NURGIS sunk. — Casualties to personnel as result of enemy air action S.E. of Lands End, approx. 1330/8 S.S. MARGO, S.S. SLEMISH (Irish). S.S. ARTHUR WRIGHT (Br.). S.S. NURGIS Norwegian sunk. All crew saved. Total 14, includes 2.W(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2122/8).

Mining.

Tynemouth. — Two mines exploded spontaneously at 2112/7 off P.W. S.S. Tynemouth. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0231/8).

Operation S.N.4. — Amend my 2153/6 as follows. (R.A.M./L 0902/8). Orders for GALATEA and AURORA to R/V with R.A.M.L. (C. in C. H.F. 1716/8).

S.N. 4. S.N. 68B. — Cancel my 1142/3. Laying of S.N. 4 is to be postponed. S.N. 68B is to be laid forthwith. Arrange accordingly. (1st S.L. 2340/8 to R.A.(M)).

Humber. — Humber is open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1153/8). The following mines were exploded by L.L. trawlers to-day. (F.O. Humber 1845/8).

/Tyne.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining. (contd).

Tyne. — Your 1244/8 Tyne closed proceed into Hartlepool. (C. in C. Rosyth 1434/8 to KELLETT).

Fowey. — Cancel my 1802/22/2. Port of Fowey now open. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1603/8).

Operation B.S.51. — 1. TEVIOT BANK is now ready for service.
2. It is desired to carry out operation B.S.51 in accordance with Adty. 1528/8/2, and 96 AZ as soon as practicable.
3. C. in C. Portsmouth is request to sail 20th D.F. to Immingham to provide escort for TEVIOT BANK. (V.C.N.S. 1652/8).

Swansea. — (1) 8/3. 4 mines exploded by AKITA. Details. (F.O.i/c Swansea 1700/8, 1701/8).

Yarmouth. — L.L's detonated red mine 8/3. Position. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1830/8).

Sweep off Beachy Head. — An exploratory sweep by seven trawlers will be carried out tomorrow from QZS 169 to 180° Beachy Head 13 miles thence to 50° 38' N. 0° 30' E. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1857/8).

Falmouth. — Position of 3 mines exploded spontaneously today. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2133/8).

Thames Estuary. — Outer Patrol Tug OCEAN LOVER reports that at approx. 1230 to-day a large explosion took place near west of Barrow Sand and clear of the swept channel. Ships of Convoy F.S. 29 were proceeding through the channel between B5 and B 4 buoys at time of explosion. Further details. (C. in C. Nore 2335/8).

Enemy Intelligence.

German Shipping. — Various intelligence. (N.A. Stockholm 1549/8) (In Lion copy only).

SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU. — My 1956/8. Battlecruisers last seen at 1829Z/8 steering 245 degs. 20 knots. (D.D.I.C. 2126/8).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

Valuable Ships. — W.A.C.I Vol. 2. Section B. Part III. Essential that whenever possible S.O. Escort shall ensure that these valuable ships are escorted from the outward bound to the inward bound convoy. In case rescue ships become separated from convoy and escort N.C.S.O. Clyde is to provide Masters with route instructions for return to Clyde. (C.in C. W.A., 1141/8, to Capts. D. Liverpool etc.).

Menace of a/c attack, South Irish Sea. — My 1705/6/3. Proposed that stragglers from homeward bound convoys destined for Bristol Channel ports be directed to call at Belfast. Request N.C.S.O's overseas be instructed accordingly. (C.in C. W.A. 1156/8 to Admty.)

EXMOUTH — American Red Cross sending U.S. Govt. S.S. EXMOUTH from New York to Marseilles, due about 23/3 carrying exclusively Red Cross supplies for France and Belgium. Will fly American and Red Cross flag and will be marked with Red Cross. Side markings will be illuminated at night.
(Particulars of EXMOUTH) Course will be from New York by regular winter ocean track to Gibraltar. From Gibraltar to Marseilles, subject to local conditions. Take steps to ensure that this vessel is allowed to proceed and return without molestation.
(Air Ministry 1232/8, to A.O.C.in C. M.E.).

Navigation Lights, independent ships. — Cancel my 1718/5 and substitute proposed following signal to all British Merchant Ships in Area 1. Request your remarks.
(D.F.D. 1654/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

East Coast Convoys, precautions against E-Boat Attack. — Increasing scale of E-Boat attack in area between Sheringham Light Buoy and Aldeburgh Light Float, together with reduced numbers of Rosyth Escort Force and Nore Destroyers, calls for drastic measures.
Considered essential to avoid a heavy concentration of shipping in this area on nights favourable to E-Boat activity and following measures are proposed:-

/ (a) ....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

General (Contd.)

East Coast Convoys, precautions against E-Boat Attack.

(a) Northbound convoy will be sailed as early as daylight and minesweeping requirements allow in order that they may be as far North as possible at nightfall.
(b) Southbound convoy will be ordered to anchor between Outer Dowsing and 59 Buoy and to weigh and proceed by Q Z S 172 at such a time that they pass the Sheringham Light Buoy about two hours before sunrise. This will probably entail anchoring in Barrow Deep following night.
(c) Northbound convoy will be reinforced with destroyers on patrol O.
(d) Other light forces and auxiliary forces available will concentrate on protection of Northbound convoy. These proposals would entail,
(1) Provision of fighter protection for southbound convoy during passage from SA Buoy to Southend in daylight.
(2) Provision of escorts from Nore resources to start F N convoy from Southend on days when the F S convoy has anchored for the night in Barrow Deep. When the convoys meet the escorts will transfer and Nore escorts will take the F S convoy to Southend.
Expect that this commitment can normally be met from Nore resources.
(C.in C. Nore, 2228/8, to C.in C. Rosyth, Admty.).

Coastal Convoys.

F.N.26. R.T.A. (VERSATILE, 0815/8) Tyne ships to be diverted to Methil. (C.in C. Rosyth 1221/8) 5 ships from Middlesbrough (C.in C. Rosyth 1321/8) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1554/8).

F.N. 27. LA MELPOMENE left with (N.C.S.O. Thames 0914/8) 0830/8, 27 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1026/8) List (1143/8) Patrol "O" to join. (C.in C. Nore, 1145/8) Additional escorts (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1529/8 C.in C. Nore 1343/8 C.in C. Rosyth 1803/8) Position (WALLACE, 1549/8).

2 ships for (N.C.S.O. Harwich 1620/8) Ships from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1744/8, C.in C. Rosyth 2214/8) BEGONIA to R.V. (F.O. Humber 1805/8).

7 M.V's For onward routeing (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 0954/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.3.1941. Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

W.N.96 (O) 1530/8 escorts, 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 0930/8) Sailed 1630/8, escorts, 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1820/8).

W.N.96. 0942/8, ST. LOMAN, 3 ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1015/8) List (3 ships) (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1045/8).

E.N.82. Position (A.C.O.S. 0939/8).

F.N.25. 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Dundee 1000/28) Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1224/8) (N.C.S.O. Blyth 1814/8).

E.N. 83. Code "Usage") JASON to act as addl. A/A
W.N. 96. Code "Chitty") escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 1001/28).

W.N.95. E.T.A. (SARABANDE 1045/8) 1 ship for. (N.C.S.O. Lyness 1540/8) Position (C.in C. W.A., 1640/8).

F.S.29. Position, 37 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1047/8) All arrived (1755/8).

W.N.97. 2030/10, "Rusty", 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1112/8) Escort (1555/8).

F.N.29. My 1620/7, FRANKLIN to join. (C.in C. Nore 1156/8).

E.N.83. 0230/9, escorts, 20 ships, code "Usage". (N.C.S.O. Methil 1239/8).

2 M.V's (F.O.I.C. Milford H., 1300/8).

F.S.29A. 9 ships join from Middlesbrough (C.in C. Rosyth 1319/8) Additional escort (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1529/8) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1553/8) Sailed from Methil 2300/7. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1556/8) 5 ships from Humber, (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1746/8) Ditto at Outer Dowsing (C.in C.Rosyth 2212/8).

/ E.N. 81. ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

E.N.81. 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1347/8).

F.N.26.
F.S.29A.
E.N.83
F.S.31. E.T.A. off Whitley Sails 0230/9.) Sails 2300/8.) (C.in C. Rosyth 1622/8).

"Ounce" Postponed 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Milford H., 1900/8).

F.N.28. VESPER additional escort. (C.in C. Nore, 2104/8).

F.N.27. Maintain W/T silence except in emergency. (C.in C. Nore, 2251/8, to WALLACE HOLDERNESS VANESSA).

Ocean Convoys.

S.L.S.64 (attacked by raider 12/2) My 2050/7. CAMITO reports five British one Greek Merchant seamen survivors on board from WARLABY, SHREWSBURY and PERSEUS. (N.C.I.C. Greenock, 0008/8, to Admty.).

S.L.66. Meet. (C.in C. W.A., to WANDERER, MONTGOMERY, WITCH, etc., 0014/8) 8 hours late (C.in C. W.A. to WANDERER, etc., 1234/8).

O.B.293. Weather thick, convoy scattered, have dispersed. (Cdre O.B.293, 0200/8). Dispersed at 0200/8. (C.in C. W.A. 0918/8 to VERITY).

O.G.55. 0210/8, escorts 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0215/8) List (0927/8) WESTON with Clyde portion (C.in C. W.A. to EGRET, 2102/8).

Turkish Ferry Boats. Sailed 0200/8. (P.S.T.O. Clyde to D. of S.T., 0409/8).

O.B.C.296. 2300/10, 5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1025/8).

O.B. 296. 0100/10, unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1130/8).

/O.B.U. 295. ....

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.U.295.	1110/10, unescorted, 9 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1111/8).
O.B.O.295.	Your 1750/6. No ships (N.C.S.O. Oban 1104/8 to Capt. D. Londonderry).
O.G.O.55.	Sailed 0900/8, ARAB, 11 ships (list) (N.C.S.O. Oban 1115/8).
H.X.109.	1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Barry 1230/8).
S.L.65.	Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1347/8 1515/8, F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1800/8 (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1855/8).
H.X.110.	1 destination (D.T.D., 1457/8) 1 Destination amended (C.in C. W.A. 1851/8) HX 110. Ref. C.O.A.C. Halifax's 1001/23/2. (Halifax and Bermuda Convoys). Ships from Bermuda also have these instructions. (D.T.D. 1319/8 to C.in C. W.A.).
S.L.B.65.	0400/8, unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1500/8).
B.H.X.114.	Advance. (Bermuda, 1502/8).
S.C.23.	Your 1128/8, HARVESTER to reinforce escort. (HARVESTER, 1559/8).
H.X.111.	Not met (VERITY 1730/8) Destinations (D.T.D., 1811/8, 1814/8, 1815/8).
S.L.S.65.	TULIP to escort Bristol ships. (C.in C. W.A. to CALDWELL, 1751/8) LORNASTON arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1306/8).
O.B.295.	Sailed 1652/8. 11 ships (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1804/8) List (1805/8) NORTHERN DAWN to overtake. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1815/8).

/ S.C.22. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

S.C.22.	Congratulations on safe arrival. (C.in C. W.A. 1856/8 to R.A. Manners).
S.C.25.	Destinations changed. (D.T.D., 1943/8).
Tankers.	Destinations, repairs. (D.T.D., 1945/8 to N.C.S.O. Trinidad).
H.X.114.	Destinations (D.T.D., 1950/8).

Military Convoys.

BRITANNIA THEMISTOCLES CITY OF HONG KONG BURMA	A.M. 1904/6 Par. 1. Add. From Clyde 11/3 BURMA 12 knots for Halifax. (D.O.D.(H) 1718/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Unknown ship. — Great Yarmouth 8/3 departure Rescue Tug KROOMAN at 0142 to assist unknown ship in distress in 52° 57' 30" N. 01° 30' E. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0145/8).

BERKELEY — In view of danger of entering harbour in North East gale intend proceeding with despatch, e.t.a. 1230 request pilot. (BERKELEY 0944/8 to C.in C. Nore).
BERKELEY arrived. (N.O.I.C. Middlesbrough 1330/8.).

TUNA — LA MOQUEUSE has not arrived by 0900 propose proceeding independently. Suspect dome buckled docking required to renew. (TUNA 0822/8.).
My 1425/6. LA MOQUEUSE has failed to R/V with TUNA who is now proceeding unescorted. (Capt. (S) 3 1015/8).
Captain (S) 3's 1015/8. TUNA and LA MOQUEUSE now in company. F.O.(S) pass to Captain (S) 3. (TUNA 1248/8).

FINA — Returned from O.G.54 owing to defects. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1026/8).

TAKU — Your 1033/8. My p. c. and s. (details). 3 knots maximum. Essential to call Lough Foyle to refit submarine tow pendants. Unsafe to proceed further in confined waters with only single tow pendant of original pair remaining. Endurance of remaining tug 11 days GLADIOLUS 9 days ENCHANTRESS must put into Lough Foyle to oil 11/3. Wind 030 Force 7. (ENCHANTRESS 1125/8, Repeated by C.in C. W.A. 1659/8).
Proceed with ELECTRA ECHO when ready to comply with C.in C. H.F. 1121/8. Para. 1. Continue searching to the limit of your endurance. Report intended time of sailing. (R.A.D. 1618/8 to Capt. D.3.).

Cancel my 1618/8. Proceed as requisite to comply with C.in C. W.A. 1608/8. Report intended time of departure. (R.A.D. 1628/8, to Capt. D.3.).
Scapa departure INGLEFIELD, ELECTRA ECHO. (A.C.O.S. 2210/8).

/ BALTARA ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

BALTARA	Proceed forthwith to assist S.S. BALTARA in 50° 50' N. 22° 27' W. at 1440/6 drifting south at 1-1/2 knots. FLEUR DE LYS will R/V with you and escort you. Further signal follows. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1125/8 to ZWARTE ZEE). Your 1640/7 tug ZWARTE ZEE escorted by HEATHER is being sent and should arrive mid-day 10/3 to tow BALTARA to U.K. Remain with BALTARA as escort. (C.in C. W.A. 1133/8 to ST. ELSTAN). HEATHER is to R.V. with ZWARTE ZEE in 180° Mull of Kintyre 5 miles at 1430/8. Orders follow. (C.in C. W.A. 1207/8 to HEATHER). My 1125/8 HEATHER not FLEUR DE LYS will R.V. with you 180° 5 miles from Mull of Kintyre at 1330/to-day. New position S/S BALTARA at 1640/7 050° 21' N. 022° 12' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1234/8 to ZWARTE ZEE). Sailed ZWARTE ZEE from Campbeltown at 1230 to R.V. with HEATHER and proceed to assist S.S. BALTARA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1301/8). Your 1133/8 and 1301/8 acknowledged BALTARA condition unchanged in 049° 58' N. 022° 25'W. at 1530 G.M.T. drifting 195° 1 knot. Weather report. (ST. ELSTAN 1700/8 to C.in C. W.A.).
OCEAN SWELL	My 1230/7 OCEAN SWELL delayed with engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1206/8).
HAMMOND KNOLL LightFloat.	Reported in sinking condition. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1439/8).
MONTE FARO	Received 1636 G.M.T. De GYW. S.O.S. de MONTE FARO. Please send ship or tug. We are in collision (?) by the stern at (?) the wharf of Aguamarga. Position 36.56 N., 1.56 W. from GYW (Gibraltar). Intercepted 500 kcs. 1949 G.M.T. De GYW. EAKO from GYW (Gibraltar) You can consider the distress call received from MONTE FARO cleared. (Burnham on Sea Radio T.H.I.1740/8, 2021/8).
PETUNIA	Have developed another very serious hot main bearing. Maintaining 6 knots at present but duration is (corrupt group) ships in company can proceed at 11 knots. Request instructions sw 140 miles from Reykjavik. (PETUNIA 2131/8 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.3.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Azores.	Request ships calling at Azores either independently or from convoy be sent to Ponta Delgada only and not to Horta as Horta is not a routeing and Consul reports that there is no accommodation available for distressed seamen. (F.O.C.N.A. 1022/8, to C.in C. S.A.).
0.23.	Your 2131/7. This has been done, Netherlands submarine 0.23 arrives 10/3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1120/8 to F.O.S.).
PANDORA 0.21 0.23	Position of S/Ms at 1200/9 and movements for 24 hours:- (position) E.T.A. 0700/10. (F.O.C.N.A. 1202/8).
S.L.67. Convoy	Attacked by s/m. (MALAYA, 1540Z/8, etc.). See U-Boat Campaign.
NORD ATLANTIC.	German tanker, discharged 38 tons petrol on 7/3 believed intended for German use ashore. (D.S. 550).
DELOS	German. Left Varna 3/3 for Russian port. (D.S. 550).
GIUSEPPINA GHIRARDI	Italian tanker, left Varna 3/3 for Constanza (D.S.550).
ATLANTA) CHERCA)	Italian, cleansing propellers and bottoms during week ending 8/3. (D.S. 551).
LEESIDE BRAKE (German)	My 1958/26. We have received further information concerning S.S. LUSAL, please not her name should read LEESIDE. BRAKE arrived from Vigo 2/3. (Bilbao, 1937/98).
Spanish Shipping.	In view of impending orange shipments from South Spain approval has been given for ships to trade as far as Valencia. Subject to your remarks it is suggested that not more than two British and Allied Ships should be at any one time in the area between Cartagena and Valencia. (D.T.D. 1953/8 to F.O.C.N.A.).
BELLONA (German)	7/3. Departure Savona for Marseilles. (Valencia T.H.I. 2330/8).

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.).

German Battle Cruisers Sighted by MALAYA.

Warship sighted.

Following has been read:- One large vessel uncertain whether battleship or battle-cruiser bearing 251° ?40 miles course unknown my position 115 22° N. 20° W., 25 from a fix within half an hour of 1200.
(MALAYA, 1600Z/8, to Gibraltar).
Note. - Convoy S.L.67 had previously been attacked by U/B in 20.50 N., 20.28 W. at 0400Z. (See MALAYA 1540Z/8, U-Boat Campaign)

SCHARNHORST class.

My 1600Z ? Reported to have been Battle Cruiser SCHARNHOST Class neighbourhood 137 RBCZ.(22° N., 20° W.) 16 X.12.
(MALAYA, 1705Z/8, Recd: 1858.)
Enemy in sight German Battle Cruiser SCHARNHOST my position 150 RBCZ 11.
(MALAYA, 1745Z/8, Recd. 1909).
Enemy retiring Westward my position is 150 RBCZ 11. (MALAYA, 1748Z/8, Recd. 1914).
(W.R. Note: The above messages were received by Gibraltar W/T Station and passed to Whitehall.)
Position about 130 miles W. of Cape Blanco, W. Africa.

2 Battleships.

My 1600Z. Aircraft reports two Battleships. Am retiring on Convoy.
(MALAYA, 1804Z/8).
My 1804. Confirmed two German Battle Cruisers SCHARNHORST Class at present steering 245° 20 knots. (MALAYA, 1829Z/8).

Force H.

RENOWN and ARK ROYAL ready to proceed 2200.
(S.O. Force H., 1830/8).
Raise steam. (V.C.N.S. 1831/8 to S.O. Force H.).
Proceed to Sea. Take REPULSE and FURIOUS under your orders, it is estimated they have 50% fuel remaining.
(V.C.N.S. 1922/8 to F.O. Force H.).
My 1830. For 220° read 2100. Should ARETHUSA accompany RENOWN and ARK ROYAL?
(S.O. Force H., 1945/8).
Your 1945/8. Yes. (D.C. 2112/8, to F.O. Force H.).

/ Informing Home Fleet, etc. ..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.2.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

German Battle Cruisers Sighted by MALAYA. (contd.)

Informing Home Fleet, etc.	Two German ships probably Battlecruisers SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU sighted by MALAYA at 1600Z/8 in position 21° 37' N., 20° 20' W. (D.D.I.C. 1956/8 to C.in C. H.F., N. Atlantic, S. Atlantic, etc.). German Battlecruiser in 21° 37' N., 20° 20' W. at 1600 G.M.T./8. (D.D.I.C. 2012/8 to All British Merchant Vessels in Areas 1, 7, 9 and 6A).
Enemy Report.	At 1828Z/8 SCHARNHORST made a signal on U/Boat frequency evidently reporting your position. (D.D.I.C. 2022/8 to MALAYA).
REPULSE FURIOUS STRATHMORE	Proceed with FURIOUS direct to Gibraltar at all speed practicable. Detach STRATHMORE to R/V with destroyers as previously arranged. (S.O. Force H., 2058/8, to REPULSE).
Force H intentions.	Your 1922/8. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and ARETHUSA proceeding 25 knots towards Canary Is. If S.L.67 no longer threatened by dusk tomorrow 9/3 intend proceeding vicinity 039°N. 021° W. cover O.G.54 and H.G.55. Intend REPULSE to refuel and proceed to R.V. with me 039° N. 018° W. at 1200 A/11. FURIOUS to remain at (?Gibraltar). (S.O. Force H., 2125/8, to Admty.). Gibraltar departures RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, ARETHUSA to westward screened by VELOX, WRESTLER. (F.O.C.N.A. 2214/8 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Raider in Indian Ocean.	Following description of raider which has been operating in Indian Ocean - Captain Rogge. (C.in C. S.A. 0449N/8 to S.A. Station).
FALSTERBO ALGORAB	Overdue shipping My 1117/7 Swedish ship FALSTERBO arrived Capetown. Dutch ship ALGORAB due Capetown 4/3 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0958/8.).
BRITISH ADVOCATE overdue	Overdue shipping BRITISH ADVOCATE due Capetown 4/3 from Basra not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1020B/8).
CORNWALL	Intend sailing on completion of oiling at 1600 Z/8 in accordance with your 1307N/7. (CORNWALL, 1032Z/8, to C.in C. S.A.).
SHROPSHIRE	Arrival 8/3, to be taken in hand for refit. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1033/8).
Deception Island.	Oil fuel installation at Deception Island has been put completely out of action. Coal destroyed. No oil in tanks and no sign of oil having been stowed or worked for a very considerable time. (QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1053Z/8 to C.in C. S.A.).
NEWCASTLE	Arrived Montevideo 0915Z plus 3/7. Intend departing 0900Z plus 3/8. (NEWCASTLE, 1159Z/8).
WRAY CASTLE	My 1117/7 WRAY CASTLE arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1230/8).
ASAKA, enemy signals.	Admty. 1311/1. Station using call sign JWND communicating with Norddeich has on several days since 25/2 afforded D/F bearings from Far East and S. Atlantic Stations suggesting Canaries area while ASAKA appears to have been at Bilbao. Request bearing from station better placed to determine latitude. As ASAKA is expected to leave Bilbao 10/3 request bearings of JWND if possible earlier. (C.in C. S.A. 1257/8 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

/ 86 Group. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.3.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

86 Group. Address Indicating Group Number 86 has been allocated to denote:-
C.in C. South Atlantic, S.O.(I) Freetown, S.O.(I) Capetown, N.O.I.C. Durban, N.O.I.C. Falklands and all H.M. Ships operating in or passing through S. Atlantic Station.
(Hd. of M. 1423/8,"A" Message).

KING GRUFFYDD sailed 1207 G.M.T./8 in accordance with C.in C. E.I. 1836Z/7 not to Admiralty or C.in C. S.A. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1430Z/8).

THORARINN QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1114/2/3. (Urging Catcher be detained). After consulting C.O. of QUEEN OF BERMUDA and pending further orders I have instructed Magistrate South Georgia to detain Catcher THORARINN until end of season.
(N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1534Z/8, to C.in C. S.A.)

NORDERNEY N.C.S.O. Para. reports has requested berth for 10/3 to load. Has painted draft mark fore and aft. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 1738Z/8).

RICHMOND CASTLE
STIRLING CASTLE
CLAN CAMERON Routeing instructions did not include final positions J L and K reported in respective Vescas.
This caused serious confusion. Utmost care is to be taken to avoid recurrence of these ommissions.
(D.T.D. 1852/8 to N.C.S.O. Capetown).

German signals. At 1828Z/8 German Naval Enigma message 2008/8 22 was heard at Freetown. Operator reports he heard transmitter's generator slow down at end of transmission. Also heard German Unit's receiver oscillate to receive repetition from Lorient (-4 XU-Barred). (Bearing) Is it certain that this would be message referred to in your 2022/8 or could conceivably be U Boat reporting W.S.6 which had just left Freetown. (Ref. your 2022/8.).
(C.in C. S.A., 1951N/8 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

CONTE ROSSO	Italian, reported in American Press to have been sunk in Mediterranean while carrying troops, (unconfirmed) (D.S. 551).
SPARTA	Left 6/3 for Marseilles. (Valencia, T.H.I. 0015/8).
Enemy Ships.	Aircraft reconnaissance 6/3 reports three ships of 3000 and one of 1000 tons half a mile off shore at Burat El Sun. (Capt. S.1, 0903/8, to TRUANT). 4000 tons enemy merchant ship escorted by two aircraft passed Kelitra Roads southwards at 0700B/8. (Comdr. S.1, 1255/8, to S/M's on Patrol).
A.N.F.17.	Arrived 2000/7. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 0900/8).
A.N.F.18.	0730/8. CLAN MACAULAY, CINGALESE PRINCE, SETTLER, THURLAND, DUMANA. Military Stores. DUMANA for Suda Bay, remainder Piraeus. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0955/8).
A.N.17.	Arrived 1000/8. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1100/8).
FORMIDABLE EAGLE ILLUSTRIOUS	Plans for. (C.in C. Med., 1110/8 to Admty.) See Mediterranean Volume.
Convoy A.S.17.	(i) A.S.17 (ii) 1400/8. List of ships. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus 1435/8.).
Turkish minesweepers.	Your 2330/2, to Adty. last para. this has been, and will be done. Commodore Minesweepers at Golcuk states total minesweepers at disposal of Navy at present time are 5 large and 2 small. No others have been taken up and apparently no other personnel has been trained beyond crews of these vessels. (Admiral Kelly, Istanbul 1500/8 to C.in C. Med.).
ESSEX.	Damaged further by enemy action. Endeavouring dry dock as soon as possible. (S.T.O. Malta, 1525/8 to D. of S.T.). See 1630/8.

/ Taranto Reccon. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.3.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Taranto Reccon. Malta Air Raid, 7/3.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1600/8/3. All times G.M.T. My I.161, 7/3. Glenn Martin which landed Greece reported Taranto 4 battleships 1 of which in dry dock 4 cruisers 7 destroyers 1 submarine 6 M.Vs. 38 seaplanes. During period 1640 to 2120 15 enemy aircraft attacked Island. Although a number of bombs were dropped several enemy aircraft missed the island. Damage H.M. Naval. Hit on store, slight damage to IMPERIAL, ESSEX damaged by 2 hits and 1 near miss. No casualties. (H.Q. Malta, 1630/8).

Spanish Shipping.

Since bombardment of Genoa no Spanish vessel has been reported sailing to Italian ports. Many still run to Marseilles. (N.A. Madrid, 1635/8 to Admty.).

Convoy A.S.16.

Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 1706/8).

DARD mined.

Motor Boat DARD (loaned by Suez Canal Company for minesweeping operation) lost as result of enemy mine explosion whilst sweeping in Canal today. Casualties. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1943/8).

"Glen" Ships (Force Z)

GLENGYLE, GLENEARN and GLENROY are to be administered by S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area. (C.in C. Med., 2356/8).

East Indies.

Enemy M.V's Massawa Perim Patrol.

Apart from the fact that some of the enemy M.V's in Massawa may be potential raiders it is essential that none should be allowed to escape. If there is not already one in force a Perim patrol is to be instituted even at the expense of convoy escorts. Freighters should reach Aden as soon as possible to assist in this patrol as it will probably be necessary to send FLAMINGO and AUCKLAND to Mediterranean at an early date.
(1 S.L. 0003/8 to C.in C. E.I.)
Reply: C.in C. East Indies, 1202Z/8, See Operations Volume.

/ RAMB I. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

RAMB I. — Your 2021/7. Photographs of RAMB I on fire and sinking are to hand. Intend publishing in local papers on 10/3. (C.in C. E.I., 0522Z/8, to Admty.).

Convoy C.F.1. — Departure Colombo 0600Z/8 AUSTRALIA escorting Convoy C.F.1. (S.O.(I) Colombo 0702/8).

B.M.4. — Departure ANTENOR escorting B.M.4. (S.O.I. Bombay, 0831Z/8).

Perim Patrol. — C.in C. E.I., 1202Z/8 to Admty., amended 0450Z/11. See Operations Volume.

DURMITOR — Report particulars Crew available, quantity condition cargo, surplus bunker coal. Are stores sufficient reach Mombasa? (D.T.D. 2036/8 to N.O.I.C. Kismayu).

China.

Meteorological War Organisation will be extended to include China, Australia and New Zealand Stations as from 0001 G.M.T./9. (Head of M. 1107/8 to C.in C's China, E.I., A.W.I., etc.).

TAMESIS — Your 1944/8. TAMESIS sails from Manila about 1800/12 for Hong Kong with Japanese and (?Shanghai) cargo. Have requested them to keep diversion as secret as possible. (B.C. Manila 1622/8).
Norwegian TAMESIS now due at Manila with cargo for that port, Shanghai and Japan. Presume you will not allow her to proceed north of Hong Kong. Arrangements for cargo. (D.T.D. 1954/8 to C.in C. China etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.3.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

H.X.and S.C. Convoys.	Admty. 1343/7. Request requirements cannot be immediately met. Reasons. (F.O.3 B.S. 0751/8 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.
FELLA	Italian ship taking water and provisions including 10 head of cattle. (Limon, C.R., 0940/8, to Admty.).
VOLTAIRE K.G.MELDAHL	Admty. 1729/7 (VOLTAIRE to act as escort to K.G. MELDAHL) Unless you have already made other arrangements, suggest VOLTAIRE should proceed direct to Trinidad and commence escort from there. 0952/8.
DESPATCH	To leave Trinidad 11/3 and patrol area O, returning to Trinidad 18/3. Object is to provide cover for following important ships. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1112/8, to Cdre, W. Indies.).
H.X. Escorts.	Your 1924 and 1925/7. See my 0751/8. Could cruiser be provided for H.X.114 leaving Halifax 11/3 instead of H.X.116 sailing 21/3? (R.A. 3 B.S., 1151/8, to Admty.).
ANGLO PERUVIAN	5457 tons. 17 survivors landed Halifax. (D.S. 550.)
CAPE NELSON	3807 tons. Ship lost, 4 of crew missing (D.S.550)
	ANGLO PERUVIAN left Loche Ewe on 20/2 for Boston.
	CAPE NELSON left Oban on 19/2 for New York.
TRELAWNEY raider report 22/2.	N.S.H.Q. 1126/22/2. S.S. LOMBARDY in vicinity reports having heard AAAA report as well as RRRR. It therefore appears possible raider was using aircraft. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1254/8.). TRELAWNEY, British 4689 tons, which left Clyde on 11/2 and has been overdue at New York since 2/3, is now presumed lost. She made raider distress signal 22/2 in 47.12 N., 48.13 W. (D.S. 552).
ANNA KNUDSEN	Your 1731/7 chiefly new crew required, also ship unarmed. Probably same action will be required for Panamanian NORVINN. (N.C.S.O. Berdmua 1355/8 to Adty.).
K.G. MELDAHL	Your 0952/8. New York reports Norwegian K G MELDAHL 11 knots expects to sail 10/3 to Takoradi direct with 55 aeroplanes. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2045/8.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Troop Transport, U.S.10.	Your 0538/1. Proposals. (D.S.T., 0120/8 to A.C.N.B.).
C.F.1.	Departure 0815Z/7 HOBART flying flag of F.O.C. Aust. Sqdn. and SYDNEY from Fremantle for R.V. with convoy C.F.1. (A.C.N.B. 0722Z/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

General.

A/S Striking Forces.

Intended to operate A/S Striking Forces in Western Approaches, in conjunction with convoys, as additions to convoy escort. Details. (C. in C. W.A. 2021/8). Original in Lion Copy only.

Ships Attacked.

EMPIRE ATTENDANT.

British 7524 tons. SSSS 60.42 N. 19.18 W. Torpedoed 2311 G.M.T./7. (Lyness 0032/8) In Convoy OB 293 (D.S. 550).

BALTISTAN. (torpedoed 27/2).

Now presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 550).

LAHORE. Convoy S.L. 67.

British 5304 tons. Following has been read SSSS 21.03 N. 20.38 LAHORE, explosion 0421 G.M.T. (Portishead Radio 0615/8 also 0718/8 to Admty).
Convoy attacked by submarine in position 020° 50' N. 020° 28' W. at 0400Z. 5 ships including LAHORE sunk. FAULKNOR and FORESTER remain in company till 11/3. My position 021° 48' N. 019° 36' W. (MALAYA 1540Z/8 to F.O.C.N.A).

O.B. 293.

Following received from VERITY (begins) O.B. 293 attacked by U Boat position 060° 38' N. 018° 12' W. VERITY and WOLVERINE hunt contact. Two ships torpedoed. (ends). (C. in C. W.A. 0833/8 to Admty).

DUNNFF HEAD.

Attack by U-Boat on O.B. 293. (a) WOLVERINE attacked with depth charges result unknown. VERITY closed but failed to obtain contact. (b) Starboard side, correctly signalled. (c) Screen diagram No. 3. (d) DUNAFF HEAD small and probably one other. No trace of ships at daylight. (e) 0015/8 060° 38' N. 018° 12' W. (f) 266° (? 069°) 15' evasive steering (g) Sea slight, wind S.W.3, Visibility 3000 yards (h) attacked about (? 10 miles) from (?contact broad on starboard bow. Have 39 survivors from ?DUNAFF HEAD. Am joining H.X. 111. (VERITY 0930/8 to Admty).

/BARON.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd).

BARON TWEEDMOUTH. — British 3357 tons. Following has been read:- SSSS BARON TWEEDMOUTH sighted submarine one mile E. by N. of South Rock Light Vessel. 0850/8. (Lyness 0852/8 T.O.R. 0957/8).

MIJDRECHT. — SSSS MIJDRECHT Dutch 336° 51 miles Barra Head, submarine sighted. (Wick Radio 1230/8) (Coastguard, Port Patrick 1235/8).

TERJEVIKEN. (torpedoed 7/3). — Floating bottom up approx. position 059° 44' N. 01° 44' W. Searched area, one survivor. Now proceeding to first position after shelled derelict which is slowly sinking.
(BRIGAND 1314/8, 1650/8 to C. in C.W.A.etc).

DELILIAN (torpedoed 7/3) — E.T.A. Butt of Lewis 0300/9. DELILIAN able to proceed to Clyde via Minches weather permitting speed of 6 knots. Request further instructions. (weather report). CAMELIA 1750/8 to C. in C. W.A.).
Your 1750/8 escort DELILIAN to Clyde and land survivors. (C. in C. W.A. to CAMELIA 2245/8).

Use of P/L. — C. in C. H.F. 1923/27/2. The Additional complications involved are thought to outweigh the advantages of this proposal. Considered preferable that shipsshould be ordered to transmit for D/F purposes if and when advantage can be taken of such a procedure. (C. in C. W.A. 2003/8 to Admty).

Submarines Reported.

0431. — U-Boat in position 021° 03' N. 020° 38' W. at 0431/8. (F.O.C.N.A. 0842/8 to MALAYA REGISTAN).
My 0842 refers SSSS reporting explosion in LAHORE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1040/8 to MALAYA REGISTAN).
My 0842/8 D/F bearings indicate submarine may be following convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1125/8 to MALAYA REGISTAN).

/0850.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.3.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

0850.	It is probable that Enemy U-boat has reported S.C. 23 convoy. (D.D.I.C. 0850/8 to AMBUSCADE H.Q.C.C.).
0145.	56.30 N., 15° W., indefinite position. (D.S. 550).
0156.	56° N., 12° W., indefinite position. (D.S 550)
1036.	61.20 N., 12° W., indefinite position. (D.S. 55)
1330	57.36 N., 8.20 W. reported by Du. S.S. ANYDRECHT (D.S. 551).
1531	54° - 56° N., W. of 20° W. position indefinite (D.S. 551).
1812.	57° - 58° N. 13° - 16° W. position indefinite (D.S. 551).
1910	60° - 62° N., 11° - 20° W. position very indefinite (D.S. 551).
1955.) 2033.)	58° - 59° N., W. of 20° W. position indefinite (D.S. 551).
2009	60° - 61° N., 10° - 14° W. position indefinite (D.S. 551).
2124.	54.30 N. - 55. 30 N. W. of 15° W. position indefinite (D.S. 551).
0953.	A/S Trawlers BRITISH GUIANA and HORNPIPE sent to investigate submarine reported off South Rock L.V. at 0953/8. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1030/8).

/1330.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

1330 — Message A.F. position 57° 36' N. 8° 20' W. at 1230/8 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1403/8).

1500 — Message A.F. position 60° 07' N. 11° 42' W. at 1400/8 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1553/8).

1938 — An enemy S/M has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit. (D.D.I.C. 1938/8).
My 1938/8. It is probable that formation reported was S.C. 23 convoy or H.X. 111 (D.D.I.C. 2001/8 to AMBUSCADE, VERITY, H.Q.C.C.).

Estimated U/B dispositions. — D.D.I.C. 1343/8.

Submarines Attacked.

By WOLVERINE 0010. — U-Boat after attacking OB 293 in 060° 45' N. 019° 10' W. at 0010/18 turned course of convoy and made off at high speed before diving. Have dropped 24 d.c's in five attacks and am pursuing strong (corrup group) and oil tracks to southward. Lost touch with VERITY. (Weather) (WOLVERINE 0436/8 to C. in C. W.A).

0551 — My 0436. U-Boat sighted again and strongly attacked in 060° 19' N. 019° 26' W. (WOLVERINE 0551/8).
My 0541 (? 0551) still in firm contact. Only 7 d.c.'s remaining request (?air assistance) to effect junction with other destroyers. Position 060° 17' N. 019° 31' W. visibility one mile. (WOLVERINE 0806/8)
See also VERITY 0915/8, 0930/8 under Ships Attacked.

/Join.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

0551. (contd); Join WOLVERINE in hunt, I have insufficient fuel. (VERITY 1125/8 to CHELSEA).
Your 0806/8 air assistance is not available on account of weather. (C. in C. W.A. 1218/8 to WOLVERINE).
WOLVERINE's 0806. Have searched 060° 17' N. 019° 31' W. Have not met WOLVERINE. My p.c. and s. is 060° 17' N. 019° 19' W. 060° 20 knots visibility 2 cables to one mile. (Weather). (CHELSEA 1230/8 to C. in C. W.A).

1500. Enemy submarine on surface 220° 7 miles my position 060° 12' N. 011° 30' W. (BEVERLEY 1500/8 to C. in C. W.A).
My 1500/8. Port engine out of action my maximum speed 9 knots. U-Boat is opening range. Have opened fire to make him dive. (BEVERLEY 1520/8).
My speed 12 knots. U boat still on surface I am gaining on him slowly. Have ceased fire, range about 8 miles course 145°. (BEVERLEY, 1540/8).
Submarine has dived, am proceeding to hunt. (BEVERLEY 1620/8 to C. in C. W.A).
Your 1410/8, survivors have been picked up. Join BEVERLEY and hunt U Boat in 059° 54' N. 011° 22' W. at 1620/8.
(S.O. Trawlers N.P. 1655/8 to VISENDA).
Am proceeding to BEVERLEY with all despatch. My position is 059° 55' N. 010° 00' W.
S.C. 23 in 060° 06' N. 010° 06' W. at 1600. (HARVESTER 1700/8 to C. in C. W.A).
My position is is 059° 53' N. 010° 35' W. BEVERLEY met, searching with AUBRETIA.
S.C. 23, 67, 120 8 miles. Anticipate U. Boat will get away to attack convoy after dark. BEVERLEY's main bearing port shaft running and at present rate of losing oil will be immobilised in 24 hours. Am sending her to join convoy and HARVESTER will join by dark, leaving AUBRETIA to search and be joined by VISENDA. (HARVESTER 1930/8 to C. in C. W.A).

1924. Have attacked contact in position 059° 40' N. 010° 12' W. Large air bubble 9 minutes afterwards. Contact lost am searching the vicinity. AUBRETIA in company. (ABERDEEN 1924/8).
Am rejoining S.C. 23. (ABERDEEN 2321/8 to C. in C. W.A).
My 1655/8 BEVERLEY relieved by AUBRETIA hunting U Boat in 059° 40' N. 010° 12' W. at 1924/8. (S.O.T. N.P. 2316/8 to VISENDA).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Penalty Areas.

It has been decided to discontinue Penalty Areas forthwith. (See 20/1/41)

Harwich was closed for a short time this morning, owing to fog.

British Air Activity.

The escort to Convoy H.G.54 fired at the aircraft which arrived to escort the convoy at 2031 today, and damaged it, in spite of the aircraft making every endeavour to establish its identity.

Bad weather caused patrols to be greatly curtailed today. Shipping protective patrol was flown all day in St. George's Channel and A/S patrols in the North Channel and Minches.
A patrol along the Coast of Britanny was flown twice and one towards the coast of Norway.

63 aircraft were employed on convoy escort duty.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy E.N.83 was attacked at 1430 and again at 2000 today off Buchan Ness. S.S. ESMOND's steering engine was put out of action and she proceeded to Aberdeen under her own power. S.S. BENGLOE had superficial damage and 7 casualties.

Convoy W.N.95 was attacked at 2033 off Kinnaird Head. No damage occurred.

Portsmouth.

M.G.B.61 received minor damage and some damage was done to the Dockyard and Naval Establishments by air raid between 2100 and 2330 today.

Mining.

M/S Trawler GULFOSS was mined and sunk off Dungeness this morning and 3 mines were cut.

M/S Trawler HATSUSE was damaged by an acoustic mine off Plymouth this evening and was beached. There are at present only 3 L.L.Trawlers available for sweeping at Plymouth.

Operation S.N.68B.

R.A.M.L. with 1st M.L's left Port Z.A. this evening to carry out this operation. Four destroyers and C.S.18 in EDINBURGH with NIGERIA provided escort.

MOST SECRET.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Shipping and Convoys.

The sighting of the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU in the Atlantic yesterday has necessitated the taking of special measures for the protection of convoys.

Protection of H.X. and S.L.Convoys.

The Admiralty today announced measures for the protection of H.X. Convoys whilst the German battle cruisers are at large, and also for the protection of S.L. Convoys.

B.X. and B.H.X. Convoys.

Until further orders all ships which would normally be sent to Bermuda for convoy to U.K. are to be routed to Halifax instead, keeping within 300 miles of coast of U.S.A. if possible.

Convoy S.L.68 helf up.

The sailing of S.L.68 tomorrow from Freetown with A.M.C. escort is postponed until 12/3 when MALAYA will be available to escort the convoy.

Shipping Turn-round delays.

The causes of delays in the turn round of merchant shipping in ports are tobe considered at a meeting at the Admiralty on 13/9.

Mediterranean.

Air Raid on Malta.

Malta was attacked at dawn today by 4 M.E.110's accompanied by one JU.88, flying just over the water. R.D.F. failed to pick them up and no alarm was given. The M.E.110's attacked the Hurricanes on the ground and burnt out one and damaged another slightly. One M.E.110 crashed and was destroyed.

In future a standing dawn patrol of Hurricanes will be flown.

/At 1005 G.M.T

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

At 1005 G.M.T. today Taranto broadcast S.O.S. from Italian S.S. CAPO VITA and M/V ATTILIO DEFFENU both in the Gulf of Hammamet (Tunisia).

Suez Canal re-opened.

Traffic from Port Timsah to Port Said was opened at dawn today after several mines had been accounted for. The whole Canal was opened to traffic this evening. 42 Merchant Ships arrived at Port Said and 5 at Suez today. FORMIDABLE arrived at Port Said. Durazzo harbour was bombed last night.

America and West Indies.

DESPATCH is to provide cover for certain important ships proceeding independently from West Indian ports to Freetown and Cape Town.

RAMILLIES arrived at Halifax today with heavy weather damage.

China and Australasia.

The Meteorological War Organisation was extended to include China, Australia and New Zealand Stations today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Firing at Unseen A/C Targets.

Your 1637/4. Following instructions would meet requirements of H.F. (C. in C. H.F. 1031/9 to Admty).

6th M/L F.

R.A.C.F's 1250/7. As base facilities are not yet available, 6th M.L.F. is to remain in South for the present. (A.C.N.S.H. 1113/9).

Operation of S/M's from a certain base.

F.O. Iceland 1537/9 See Operations Volume.

Bombing Restrictions. Amendment to F.S.A. 4.

A. Attacks are now possible by our own aircraft on submarines on the surface at night. It is important therefore that submarines at sea should be covered by bombing restriction by night as well as by day. In order to avoid the necessity for imposing t.b.r. on occasions when the submarines are on the surface at night only, the following amendment is to be made to F.S.A.4.
B. Paragraph 3B, line one, after word "areas" insert "by day". At end of paragraph add words "submarines are not to be attacked ~~b~~t night". (F.O.S. 1849/9).

Penalty Areas to be discontinued.

My 2227/20/1. After trial of penalty areas certain disadvantages have come to light. In view of simplified recognition procedure between submarines and aircraft given in Adty message 124 A Z /19/2 and after consultation with A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command it has been decided to discontinue penalty areas forthwith. (F.O.S. 1912/9 to Adty).

Defence of U.K.

Scapa.

Progress Report 9/3. (R.A. Scapa 2015/9).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

2 Battleships for Halifax.

Request you will sail two battleships in company to Halifax. These ships should be routed so as to afford NORFOLK with H.X. 112 as much support as possible. One battleship will probably be required to sail with HX 115 due to sail (date) and the other with H.X. 116 due to sail (date). (1st S.L. 0058/9 to C. in C. H.F). Scapa departure KING GEORGE V. and RODNEY screened by SOMALI, BEDOUIN, PUNJABI, TARTAR, MATABELE and ESKIMO. (A.C.O.S. 0740/9). E.T.A. Halifax. If necessary KING GEORGE V could be detached so as to arrive (date) (A.C.O.S. 1650/9).

M.G.B's. 60, 58, 63, 64.

HORNET'S 0706/9/3. Sailed at 0900/9/3. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0919/9 to V.A. Dover). My 0919/9. M.G.B. 58 returned to harbour. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1106/9). Arrived Dover M.G.B'S 60 - 63 - 64. (V.A. Dover 1330/9). Arrived Harwich M.G.B. 60,63 and 64 at 1915. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1919/9).

UNBEATEN.

Intend sailing UNBEATEN at 1930 to-day diving by day routed as follows to N 1 buoy off Needles. E.T.A. 0745/10. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1121/9). CAMBRIDGESHIRE will R/V with you at N.1 (one) at 0715/10. (S.5 1855/9 to UNBEATEN).

20th D/F.

A.M. 1652/8. Intend to sail 20th D.F. at 1900 passing Dumpton Buoy 0700. C. in C. Nore is requested to issue routeing instructions for onward passage and to arrange for Air protection from Dawn/10th. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1127/9). Cancel my 1246/9. Route and speeds from Dumpton Buoy to Outer Dowsing. Convoy will be met in passage. (C. in C. Nore 2220/9 to D.20).

URGE.

Route from Lerwick. Arriving Gap A 0200/12. S/ms are not to be attacked unless hostile identity is definitely established. (S.9 1217/9 to URGE).

/H.F. Escort.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

H.F. Escort Commitments.

My 1232/15. Cancel para. 2 (d) As far as can be seen at present the following are escort commitments in the near future for Home Fleet.
(A) A cruiser with W.S.7 from U.K. to Cape sailing about (date).
(B) One Dido Class Cruiser should if possible accompany W.S.7 for first three days of passage.
(C) A battleship with T.C.10 from Halifax about (date). (A.C.N.S. H. 1243/9).

RICHMOND.

My 1104/9. Sailing of RICHMOND is cancelled. (C. in C. Plymouth 1346/9).

FERNIE.
CLEVELAND.

Cancel my 1309. Intend sailing FERNIE and CLEVELAND. E.T.A. Needles 0745/9. Route. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1546/8).
My 1546/. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2335/9)

S/M O.10.

Request you sail one destroyer from 8th escort group to R/V with Dutch S/M O 10 outside Holyhead Harbour at 1300/10 and escort latter to Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A. 1552/9 to Capt. D. Liverpool).

L.27.

Intend to sail L. 27 at 1715/10th from Portsmouth unescorted diving by day. Route to R/V Start Point at 0930/11. (S.5 2005/9).

Operations.

Operation OUNCE.

F.O.i/c Milford Haven's 2301/8 is cancelled. OUNCE sails at 0120/10. Fighter cover is requested from daylight 10th to dark 10th in same position as in F.O.i/c Milford Haven's 1326/8. (C. in C. Plymouth 0352/9 to H.Q.F.C).

East Coast A/P Trawler Patrol.

Request channel between 5 buoy and 52° 44' 30" N. 02° 13' E. be patrolled to-night by A/P Trawlers normally employed on F.W.P patrol to keep clear of M/S trawlers. (C. in C. Nore 1010/9).

/Attack.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.3.1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

Attack by E-Boats on F.S. 29 and F.N. 26 on 7/3 and 8/3.

Arrived tug DIVERSION (Late NORMAN) at 1025. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1033/9).
Great Yarmouth 0th departure tug DIVERSION at 1557 to investigate S.S. DOTEREL aground east side Scroby. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1622/9).

M.T.B's off Schelde.

Weather permitting 3 M.T.B's are to operate to-night Sunday between Ostend and Hook of Holland. If conditions are found suitable Flushing Roads should be visited. Any vessel met East of 2° 15' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore 1152/9).

A/S Striking Force.

My 2357/8. Part one. Correct:-
(A) striking force will operate in conjunction with convoy, additional convoy escort.
(B) object destroy U-Boats.
(C) when striking force is in company with convoy, command of escort force as in W.A.C.1's, modified as follows begins:-
(C. in C. W.A. 1802/9 to Capt. D.3).

A/S Patrol of Rosemary and Lousy Banks.

My 1306/7. Next trawler to sail is to patrol Rosemary Bank and Lousy Bank on alternate nights for period about 6 days. It is thought possible U-boats communicate with Icelandic trawlers or check position by sound on these banks. Northern Patrol trawlers patrol North West line 050° from 054° 10' N. 014° W. (C. in C. W.A. 1831/9 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).

British Air Activity.

Helder.

1. Night 6/7 March.)All operations were
Day 7 March.)cancelled owing to
Night 7/8 March.)unsuitable weather
Night 8/9 March.)conditions.

Day 8 March. Two Blenheims attacked the docks at Den Helder but results were not observed.
(H.Q.B.C. 0002/9).

/Escorts.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Escorts.

Your 2153/6. A/S air escort arranged as follows: Amsons from Stornoway from 1200/9 to darkness/9 and from daylight/11 till arrival at Port ZA, Hudsons from Wick throughout daylight/10.
Also 2 Blenheim fighters at Sumburgh Head at readiness during daylight/10.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0152/9 to R.A.M.L).
Expect one Sunderland as A/S Air escort from about 1000.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0222/9 to WOLVERINE).
Expect Hudson Aircraft as A/S Air escort throughout daylight to-day.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0227/9 to AMBUSCADE).
Expect A/S air escort by Hudson aircraft from 0800 to 1400 and by Sunderland aircraft from 1400 to dusk.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0710/9 to RODNEY, KING GEORGE V.,D.6).
Cancel my 0152/9. A/S escort by Hudson A/C during daylight 10th, by Sunderland on 11th, by Hudson until 1400 on 12th then by Anson, 2 Blenheim Fighters standing by at Sullom Voe during daylight 10th and 12th.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2202/9 to R.A.M.L);

Straits of Dover Striking Force.

During the passage of channel convoys through the Straits of Dover a striking force of two A/C is to be held at readiness to attack gun positions should they open fire. The scattered disposition of these guns does not warrant an attack being carried out unless the position of the particular battery which is firing is known. The executive order will consist of the word guns followed by the position.
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1023/9).

Patrols.

S.A. 2 in operation now. No other air patrols ordered for to-day.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1140/9).

A/S Air Escorts to Convoys.

My 1743/8. Para. 3. Cancel and substitute when one aircraft is detailed to carry out A/S escort to a convoy or surface vessel it is to fly a rectangle round the convoy or vessel 10 miles from the convoy on each beam. 15 miles from the convoy ahead and 20 miles from the convoy astern. (C. in C W.A. 1155/9).

/Fighter.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Fighter Protection for KENYA.

Request fighter protection for one cruiser, from daylight/10 till arrival in harbour. Position at 0730/10 approx. 220° Eddystone 15 miles proceeding to Plymouth speed 22 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth 2220/9 to H.Q.F.C).
LIM/04/9/3.
LV/04/9/3.
Report of Aircraft D/502.
At 2031 met HG 54 55° 30' N. 12° 7' W. Immediately met with heavy A.A. and M.G fire which persisted although all cartridges used and Aldis lamp flashed continuously. Heard word Camel over R/T but could not distinguish message. Request over R/T to cease fire had no result. A/C holed in several places. 2224 landed base. (A.C.H.Q. Liverpool 2300/9).

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth bombed 8/3.

Several bombs dropped about 2000/8 in sea between Spit Fort and Harbour entrance. Also several in Harbour near Courbet at the Dolphins. Two further bombs at 0016/9 in Harbour North of Whale Island. Only bomb in dockyard referred to in my 2320. Six bombs dropped in Portsmouth City area in the 2000/8 raid. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1149/9).

Convoy E.N. 83.

Fighters despatched so assist odd numbered E.N. Convoy. (Plymouth W/T 1250/9).
Help USAGE 164° Tod Head 6'. 016°. 5 knots. (LADY ROSEMARY 1507/9)
A A USAGE. LANCET. (Rosyth 1513/9).
Help USAGE in 57° 11' N. 1° 43' W. (JASON 1935/9).
Following received:- Help USAGE 076° Girdle Ness 10' - 016° - 6 knots. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1944/9 to Adty).
My 1935. Convoy attacked by one Heinkel 5 bombs dropped no hits. (JASON 2001/9)

/Iceland.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Iceland.

Following received, from HONNINGSVAAG. Aeroplane reported heard yesterday passing low over VESLA KARE about four miles north of Vagecberg flying south west at 1100/8. Identified as twin engined German monoplane. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1426/9).

PRINZ FREDERIK HENDRIK. (Bombed 8/3).

Following from Norwegian POLARTANK arrived Swansea, Rescued 16 crew PRINCE FREDERICK HENRIK noon/8 bombed and on fire Irish Channel, eight men missing. (F.O.I.C. Swansea 1445/9).
My 1545/8, Extensive search by several vessels and aircraft has revealed no trace of PRINS FREDERIK HENDRIK or of two boats seen by aircraft to be leaving vessel about 1224/8. In view of prevailing North Easterly wind possible boats may have reached Eire. Have discontinued search at 1800 to-day. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1835/9).
My 1835/9. Arrived Tug GOLIATH. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1845/9).

Western Approaches.

An unusual number of enemy aircraft have been reporting weather conditions in the Western Approaches today. Flights have extended to 17° W. and several reports of "No enemy naval forces sighted" made by F.W. Aircraft to West of Ireland. (D.D.I.C 1602/9).

KMICIC (Bombed 8/3).

VOLUNTEER reports when in 52° 15' N. 5° 38' W. at 1200/8 the bombing of the Polish ship KMICIC proceeding to Glasgow. One British soldier wounded. No damage to ship. VOLUNTEER took off wounded soldier. Now landed here. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1602/9).

NADINE.

(M/S Trawler) Reports that during an attack by enemy A/C at 1142/8 in 52° 45' N 2° 12' E. the A/C was severely damaged by machine gun fire from the trawler and set on fire. The plane a Heinkel 111 was last seen diving towards the sea but was not actually seen to crash. A/T ORIZABA confirms. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1754/9).

/Scapa.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Scapa Flow.

At about 1430 an enemy aircraft reported as a Ju. 88 crossed the Flow from Flotta to Holm Sound and out over Deerness to eastward. (A.C.O.S. 1825/9).

Convoy W.N. 95.

Following received.
Help MUSTER (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2030/9).
Enemy aircraft bombing convoy MUSTER in 57° 40' N. 1° 46' W. (HASTINGS 2033/9).
My 2033. 1 AP. No hits. (HASTINGS 2050/9).
Doubtful reception of message received indicates ship in W.N. 95 possibly in distress at 2030. Report if any ship hit. (C. in C. Rosyth 2144/9 to HASTINGS).

Mining.

S.N. 68 B.

Cancel my 1843/6 para. 1 and my 1716/8.
2. C.S. 18 in EDINBURGH with NIGERIA will be required to sail to-day to escort first M L Squadron. (C. in C. H.F. 0014/9 to C.S.18).
My 2153/6. Intend to carry out as follows. Details. (R.A.M.L. 0217/9 to Adty)
See Operations Volume.
Your 0014/9. Intend sailing for S.N. 68 B. at 1800 today. (R.A.M.L. 0312/9 to C. in C H.F).
CHARLESTON and LANCASTER expected Port ZA yesterday have reported their expected arrival at Londonderry. CASTLETON also expected last night has arrived Liverpool. Request if possible you will provide three destroyers for close screen for operation SN 68 B. (R.A.M.L. 1017/9 to C. in C. H.F).
R.A.M.L. 1017/9. Three destroyers are to be sailed to rendezvous with 1st minelaying squadron as soon as practicable.
(C. in C. H.F. 1229/9 to R.A.D.H.F)
My 0014/9 and R.A.M.L. 0217/9. EDINBURGH and NIGERIA are to R/V with R.A.M.L. at 0800/10. (C. in C. H.F. 1232/9 to C.S.18).
MAORI, ZULU sailed to comply with C. in C. H.F. 1229/9. COSSACK delayed by defects should be ready to proceed by 1900/9. (R.A.D. H.F. 1630/9).
COSSACK sailed to join R.A.M.L. (R.A.D. H.F. 1800/9).
Departure Port Z.A.R.A. (M) in SOUTHERN PRINCE, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, and ST. MARYS to carry out S.N. 68 B. (TRELAWNEY 1811/9).

/Sweep.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.3.1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Sweep of 7 Trawlers. My 1857/8. Sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0808/9).

Off Dungeness. GULFOSS sunk. 3 mines cut. About 0800 to-day during exploratory sweep M/S Trawler mined and sunk whilst heaving in sweep in position 265° D Buoy 1.5 miles. Another mine cut in position 310° D Buoy 1.5 miles.
Request Q Z X Message declaring an area dangerous owing to mines within a radius of 2½ miles of 50° 51' 15" N. 0° 58' 30" E. (V.A. Dover 1142/9).
My 1142. A third mine was cut in approximate position 254 degs. D buoy 2 point 1 miles. (V.A. Dover 1523/9).

M.M/S. 1. M.M/S. 8. M.M.S.1. M.M.S. 8 are to sail at 0800/10 and proceed by swept channels to Harwich for onward routeing to Sheerness. Operations on passage as follows. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1230/9).

Approaches to Dundee. Sail one M/S Trawler S.A. Type 11 to arrive Eastern End of Q.Z.S. 162 at daylight 10th. She is to sweep Approaches to Dundee before arrival of M.V. COLUMBIA. E.T.A. early A.M. 11th. (C. in C. Rosyth 1232/9 to N.O.I.C. Leith).

The Wash. Master of S.S. SIR DAVID reports that at 1430/7 while proceeding in convoy he observed an aeroplane drop a parachute with a large horizontal cylindrical object attached about half a mile North Eastward of East Dudgeon Light Buoy. (N.C.S.O. London 1234/9).

/Thames.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Thames Estuary. Summary of explosions and aircraft activities for night 8th/9th. Parachute Mines were observed to drop in following six approximate positions.
At 2145. Suspected mines exploded off Westcliffe and the Bathing pool, Southend and a third object which did not explode was heard to drop near the latter position.
At 0745. A spontaneous mine explosion occurred in approximate position 090° 6 cables from Nore Light Vessel.
There was great aircraft activity between 2000 and 0030 but plots gave no real indication of minelaying in other areas. Aircraft were flying above 5000 feet and only one was sighted and fired on. No pyrotechnic signals over the Estuary. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1457/9).

B.S. 51. My 1652/8. On arrival at Immingham ships of 20th D.F. are to embark reduced outfits of Mark XVII mines for extension of line B.S. 51. (D.O.D.H. 1832/9).

S.N. 100. Northern line cleared by M.S. 9 today. Particulars. Clearance can be completed forthwith but desired to wait reasonable time for sufficient calm to enable recovery of one or two failures. (R.A.M.L. 1939/9).

Enemy Intelligence.

Petten. At 1307/8 A/C saw 2 M/V's one 5000 Tons, one 2-3000 Tons, steering south off Petten. (H.Q.B.C. 0002/9).

E-Boats. Suspect E Boat in the vicinity. (N.O.I.C. Humber 0305/9 to BEGONIA).
Enemy war motor boats activity eastward Great Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore 2233/9).
Enemy t.b's reported between 54 E buoy Haisborough. (C. in C. Nore 2341/9 to PYTCHLEY, VESPER, D.6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Harwich. Port closed owing to fo .
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0900/9).
Port is now open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1012/9).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.3.41.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

Hammond Knoll Light Float.	Hammond Knoll Light Float reported sinking. (Hydrographer 0100/9.)
PETUNIA.	Your 2131/8. Return to Reykjavik with CITY OF ORAN and LOCH GARRY in company. (C. in C. W.A. 0107/9, to PETUNIA.)
LIEV ERIKSSON.	Standing by Norwegian LIEV ERIKSSON in 057° 45' N., 006° 40' E., who has broken cylinders. Repairs expected by 0930 unless I make further signal.(HURRICANE 0730/9.)
BEVERLEY.	Port engine out of action, main shaft bearing clogged. Considerable amount of turbine oil lost below both engines due to leak. (BEVERLEY 1140/9.)
FLIMSTON.	(British, 4674 Tons.) Dragged ashore Seaton Sands 0430/9. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool. 1215/9.) Crew numbering 38 taken off. No casualtie Ship cannot be refloated in existing weather. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1720/9.)
BALTARA.	C. in C. W. A., 1207/8. ZWARTE ZEE has broken down. Proceed forthwith to R/V. with Tug THAMES at entrance to Loch Foyle and escort her to assist S.S.BALTARA in 50° 21' N., 22° 12' W., at 1640/7th. ST.ELST. standing by. If considered advisable BALTARA should be towed into Bantry Bay. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1223/9 to HEATHER.) Request you will sail tug THAMES to await arrival of HEATHER at entrance b Loch Foyl (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1225/9 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.) Sailed HEATHER to R.V. with THAMES and proceed in company to assist BALTARA, where they should arrive a.m./12th. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1511/9.) Tugs HEATHER and THAMES sailed. (Capt. D. Londonderry 2200/9.)

/Raft off.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.3.41.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.

Raft off Hebrides. A/C reports men on raft in 58° 04' N., 7° 5' W., at 1200/9. (C. in C. Rosyth 1236/9.)
My 1236. Amend position to 58° 48' N., 07° 39' W. Anson, searching vicinity from 1310. (C. in C. Rosyth 1254/9.)
At 1145 A/C sighted raft obtained D/F fix giving position 58° 48' N., 7° 39' W., Signalled to base. Man on board. Nothing could be seen visually on this raft apart from man. A/C was unable to drop anything to aid man as there was no means of ensuring that it would float. A/C received messages indicating that it would be relieved by ANSON but as petrol was running low 1510 returned to base. (C. in C.W.A., 1815/9.)

WHITEHALL. My 1210/2. WHITEHALL completed boiler cleaning and defects made good.
Ship reverted to normal notice for steam (Capt. D. Liverpool 1337/9.)
Following received from aircraft for C. in C. W.A., from ENCHANTRESS begins:- My position 158° from Datum Point 56° N., 9° W., 34 miles. Making for Lough Foyle T O O 1021/9. Ends. (C. in C. W.A., 1542/9.)

RAMSEY. Has developed further defects and will not sail for O.G.55. (Capt. D. Londonderry 2205/9.)

WHITSHED. Condenser defect completed. Shall be at half hour's notice from 2300. (WHITSHED 2210/9.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Protection E. Coast of Convoys.

Your 2228/8 agree that your proposals are the best under the circumstances. (C. in C. Rosyth 1045/9.)

VOLGA.

(Norwegian motor fishing boat) arrived here 1700/8/ from Norway with 5 men, one woman on board. Vessel required here. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1350/9.)

Conference on shipping delays.

A meeting will be held at Admiralty on 13/3, to consider the causes of delays in the turn round of merchant shipping in ports. It is desired to obtain local views on all known causes, whether these are Admiralty responsibility or not. 2. Requested that F.O.'s.I.C.,addressed, will attend or send responsible officers to represent their views. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1419/9 to F.O.I.C. London, Humber, Tyne, Greenock, Glasgow, Liverpool, Cardiff.

Sailings of convoys to be repeated to C.in C. Plymouth.

Form in which signals are to be made (C. in C. Plymouth 1902/9). See Summaries Folder.

Coastal Convoys. F.S.31.

Sailed 2300/8, 23 ships approx. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0003/9, F.O.I/C Tyne 1642/9). 17 ships from Methil,did not sail.(C. in C. Rosyth 1149/9.)

"Ounce".

Postponed 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Milford H., 0315/9.)

"Watch".

Sailed. Ships. Escorts. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1841/9.)

"Scent".

Sailed less 2 M/V's (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1922/9.)

/"Range".....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9. 3. 1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

Coastal Convoys "Range". Contd.

E.T.A. & E.T.D. Escorts. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 2136/9.).

E.N.83. 0230/9, escorts, 22 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0341/9.). List (1000/9) 8 ships from Methil did not sail. (C. in C. Rosyth 1431/9.) Left with JASON etc. (C. in C. Rosyth 2335/9.)

W.N.95. Position. (A.C.O.S., 0855/9.)

W.N.97. Escorts sailed. E.T.A. Clyde Boom. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0927/9.). FOWEY to join Code "Rusty". (C. in C. Rosyth 1830/9.)

F.S.29A. Amendments to list. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0956/9.) 14 ships, 6 additional from Middlesbrough (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0958/9.) A/P trawler, patrol to cover while at anchor. (C. in C. Nore, 1104/9.)

F.N.26. 2 absentees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0957/9.) Arrived 1100/9. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1144/9.) Arrivals (N.C.S.O. Humber 1535/9.) Arrived with VERSATILE (C. in C. Rosyth 2335/9.)

E.N.82U. Arrived 0230/9, 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 0958/9.) My 0959/9x 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1748/9.) x previously circulated as from N.C.S.O. Aultbea.

F.N.28. Patrol "O" to escort (C. in C. Nore 1000/9) 4 M.L.'s to escort. (C. in C. Nore 1020/9.) 0849/9, 25 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 1039/9.) 2 hours late, fog. (C. in C. Nore, 1506/9.) Anchored near Sunk Buoy (PYTCHLEY 1550/9.) No ships joining from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1820/9.)

W.N.U.96. Sailed 1700/9. Unescorted, 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1012/9, 1730/9.)

/W.N.O. 96.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9. 3. 1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

W.N.O.96.	List (N.C.S.O. Oban 1044/9.)
E.N.84.	1 tanker for (N.C.S.O. Lyness, 1140/9), Code word "Paddle". FOWEY to act as additional escort (C. in C. Rosyth 1830/9.)
E.N.81.	1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1146/9.) 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1236/9.)
F.N.25.	1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1212/9.)
F.S.32.	KITTIWAKE to form extra excort. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1331/9.) Cancelled. see "Alert".
F.N. & F.S.	Additional escorts. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1334/9, 1706/9.)
C.W.28.	1345/9. 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1414/9.) List (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1558/9.) M.L's 116, 117, 120, 171, left Dover to join. (V.A. Dover 1712/9.) M.L's 113, 118, and ? left to R.V. (N.O. i/c. Ramsgate 1740/9.)
F.N.27.	Ships to join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1600/9.) BEGONIA to assist in marshalling. (N.O.i/c. Humber 1606/9.) Cancel my 1600/9. Nothing joined. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0927/10.)
"Alert".	Cancel my 1331/9. KITTIWAKE remain in attendance on "Alert". (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1736/9.)

/Ocean Convoys.....

War Diary. 9. 3. 1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. Contd.

Ocean Convoys.

O.B.C. 295.	0155/9. HELIOTROPE, 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0203/9.) List of ships and destinations. (N.C. S. O. Clyde 1129/9.)
S.L.B. 65.	0445/9. Unescorted. 1 ship. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0445/9.)
H.X.111.	Met, position, weather. (CHELSEA, 0730/9.) Destroyer escorts see S.C.23.
H.X.114. S.C.25.	Assumed RAMILLIES can escort H.X.114, coupled with S.C.25. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1747/9).
S.L.65.	1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Berry 0841/9.) 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Mersey,1051/9.)
S.L.66F.) S.L.66S.)	Escorts. (C. in C. W.A., 0949/9, to OTTAWA, MALVERNIAN) amended 1219/9.)
B.H.X.114.	Left. Escort WORCESTERSHIRE (Com. I/C. Bermuda 1213/9.)
H.X.110.U.	Arrived. 0800/9. 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. (Aultbea 0959/9.)
O.B.M. 295.	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to escort. (C. in C.W.A., 1044/9.)
S.C.23.	HARVESTER, HAVELOCK, ABERDEEN, AMBUSCADE to leave S.C.23 at daylight and rejoin H.X.111. (C. in C. W.A. 2342/9.)
S.C.23U.	May meet. W.N.96. about 2000/9. (C. in C W.A., 1235/9, to AMBUSCADE, ABERDEEN, etc.,) Arrived Oban 2000/9, less GUNVOR MAERSK (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 2110/9.)

/S.L.S.65.....,,,,

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9. 3. 41. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

Ocean Convoys Ctd.

S.L.S.65.	My 1306/8. List (N.C.S.O. Oban,1110/9.)
O.B.M.296(S).	List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1535/9.) Sailed 1524/9. Escort LEEDS UNITED. 9 ships. (2 with kites) (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1537/9.)
S.L.65. S.L.S.65.	SL. and SLS.65 successful. Speed made good of combined convoy from joining at sea on 14/2 to position of meeting local escorts on 4/3 was 5.9 knots. Many of the ships of SL.65 arrived destination with hardly any bunker coal left. Normal weather 2 gales. (D.T.D.1656/9.)

MILITARY CONVOYS.

W.S.7.	Ships and Sailing Date. Ocean, A/A, and A/S Escorts. (A.C.N.S.H. 1746/9.) See Lion Copy only.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.3.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

MARON	In view of F.O.C.N.P. 0940/8 last sentence of my 1212/7 no longer applies to MARON. (F.O.C.N.A. 0042/9 to MARON, REGISTAN)
Submarine 023.	R.V. with DELPHINIUM in position Z at 2730/10. REPULSE and FURIOUS E.T.A. Gibraltar from Westward at Daylight. (Capt. (S) 8 1030/9 to O. 23.)
DUNCAN VELOX	My 1626/6 Para 1. In view of S.O. Force "H" 2125/8 intend retaining DUNCAN and VELOX at Gibraltar for the present. (F.O.C.N.A. 1052/9 to Admty.)
Submarines Positions	PANDORA with H.G. 55 (b) 021 with O.G. 54 (c) 023 arrived off Spartel 0730/10. Thence to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1058/9)
S.L. Convoys	Decision re escorts. Arrangements (A.C.N.S. (F) 1416/9) See Operations Volume.
PRESIDENT LAVIT VIRGO FIDELIS (?) (French)	Arrival 8/3 PRESIDENT LAVIT VIRGO FIDELIS (Bilbao 1542/9)
Bunkers for Yugoslav Ships	Your 2330/5. Certain other Yugo Slav ships with ships warrants carrying stores for Swiss Govt. are applying for bunkers to Genoa and back. Intend to supply. TALAS is being supplied now. (A.S. Gibraltar 1600/9)
DUNCAN and another destroyer.	DUNCAN and one of the destroyers with you will be required to sail for Freetown p.m./10. Detach one destroyer for this duty to proceed to Gibraltar with despatch. (F.O.C.N.A. 1810/9 to FEARLESS)

/Information.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.3.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

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/Information.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.3.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Information for FURIOUS REPULSE	Cable ship MIRROR escorted by LEYLAND is working cable 030°. Cape Malabata about 6 miles. DELPHINIUM on patrol 3 miles to 6 miles North West Spartel Trawler on patrol in Gibraltar Bay. Two yachts centre of Strait south of Europa Point. One destroyer and one sloop South East of Europa Point. (F.O.C.N.A. 1846/9)
French Convoys	Light cruiser ALBATROS with destroyer TEMPETE and S/M parent ship JULES VERNE reported approaching Gibraltar from the east at 1127/9. French M.V's SINFRA, COLLEVILLE, and GALLIUM passed Gibraltar eatsbound on 8/3. (D.O.R. 10/3)
STRATHMORE FOXHOUND	FOXHOUND detached in accordance with your 1810/9. STRATHMORE and escort E.T.A. 0900/10. (FEARLESS 2103/9)
BELLONA (German)	7/3. Departure Savona for Marseilles. (Valencia T.H.I. 2330/9)

South Atlantic

A/S Whalers for Mediterranean	A/S Whalers, FALK, KLO, THORGRIM, THORBRYN, TORDONN and HECTOR VI, are to form the 25th Auxiliary Group and are allocated to C. in C., Med. As they become available for service they are to be sailed for Alexandria. (D.A./S.W. 1112/9 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)
Convoy S.L. 68	S.L. 68 with CURITIUS and CANTON due to sail from Freetown 1330/10 propose sailing be postponed unless situation regarding enemy surface units becomes more clear. (C. in C., S.A. 1315N/9 to Admty.)

/HIGHLAND BRIGADE.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.3.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

HIGHLAND BRIGADE
W.S. 6.

Your 2159/7/3. (re urgent need for HIGHLAND BRIGADE in South America) not received and decyphered until 1000/9/3. HIGHLAND BRIGADE sailed with W.S. 6. 8/3. Move could not be carried out as suggested in your 0157/14/2. (re personnel arriving in HIGHLAND BRIGADE in W.S. 6.) All been reported. (C. in C., S.A., 1359/9 to D. of S.T.)

Your 1315/9. Concur. See a.m. 1416/9 which crossed. Request time of sailing S.L. 68 may be signalled as soon as it can be forecast. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1907/9)
Your 1416/9. Intend convoy S.L. 68 shall leave Freetown 12/3. This assuming that MALAYA arrives at Freetown in time to leave a.m./14 having fuelled. She will then overtake convoy about 350 miles out. (C. in C., S.A. 1841/9 to Admty.)

Mediterranean

Enemy
Intelligence
Taranto.

My 2210/7. (N.T. in W.R.) Photographs show that 3 large ships in outer harbour are two Italian Cruiser TRENTO Class Cruiser and one Italian Cruiser GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI Class Cruiser and not battleships They have a double line of nets round each ship. (V.A.Malta 1015/9 to Med. Fleet)

UPHOLDER
UNIQUE
Malta Mines

My 1329/5 to UNIQUE. UNIQUE delayed and may be encountered approaching Malta Only mines now in Marsamxett entrance is suspected magnetic in position 4 cables 290° from St. Elme Light. To enter pass through position 3.6. cables 285° from St. Elme Light, carry out same procedure as when leaving. (Comdr. S.1. 1038/9 to UPHOLDER)

Air Attack
on Tripoli

Operational Summary No 272 to 1200/9)
Night 7/8 March. 3 Wellingtons dropped 7500 lbs of bombs on Tripoli Harbour hitting railway line along quays. Intense A.A. fire at Tripoli. 1 Wellington crashed landing at base crew safe.. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1132/9)

/Enemy M.V's.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.3.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Enemy M.V's	At 0730 B/9. ? Enemy merchant ships passed Kelibia Roads Southward 14 knots (Cdr. S.1. 1141/9 to S/M's on patrol)
S.O.S. from CAPO VITA A DEFFENU	At 1005 G.M.T./9 Taranto broadcast S.O.S. from Italian SS CAPO VITA in 036° 09' N 011° 07' E., A second S.O.S. was broadcast immediately after by Taranto from Italian motor vessel ATTILIO DEFENU in same position. (C.O.S. Alexandria 1242/9)
G.A. 2.	Convoy sailing Tel (1) G.A. 2. (11) 1000/9 (List, 7 ships) Alexandria (CITY OF WINDSOR Port Said.) (N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1305/9)
Whalers	My 1112/9. These whalers are similar to SYVERN and are fitting out at Capetown First two should sail shortly but will require S.D. ratings on arrival Alexandria. Other four should sail with full crews during May and June. (D.A./S.W. 1717/9)
Fighter Aircraft For Malta.	C. in C., Med. 2011/9 See Mediterranean Volume.
Suez Canal	Situation 2000/9. Whole canal is now open to traffic. 42 M.V. arrived Port Said and 5 including DERWENTHALL arrived Suez today. FORMIDABLE, CARLISLE, JUNO GRIFFIN, GRIMSBY arrived Port Said. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area 1903/9)
Air Attack on Malta	Dawn today 4 ME 110's apparently accompanied by 1 JU 88 approached flying just over the water. Raid not picked up by R.D.F. so no alarm given. M.E. 110's attacked Hurricanes on ground at Takali firing cannon. 1 Hurricane burnt out badly and one slightly damaged. JU.88 crashed on Gozo cause unknown burnt out 4 bodies found. 2 Hurricanes will in future form standing patrol covering dawn period. 1600 hours single JU. 88 over on recco 14,000 feet. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 2125/9) Note by A.M.C.S. Last part of message corrupt, repetition being obtained.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.3.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

UPRIGHT — In view of my 1141/9 to S/M's on patrol UPHOLDER being clear of her area, UPRIGHT has liberty of action in sector Y in addition to Z from 2000B/9. (Cdr. S.1. 1212/9 to UPRIGHT)

East Indies

Supply Base — C. in C., E.I., 0718Z/9 see Operations Volume.

U.S.Convoys Cycle. — Reply to 2341/3. (C. in C., E.I., 1500Z/9 to Admty.)

DURITOR reply to questionaire — Your 1839/6. (A) stopped and armed guard put in charge. (B) Removing prisoners (C) Log and most papers destroyed by Germans prior to evacuation. (D) Master and crew were confined with British crews (E) Believed intact. All Salt. (N.O.I.C. East Africa 1620Z/9)

Raiders intelligence from RAMB I — My 1706/8. Following additional information received from CANBERRA (i) Meeting of COBURG and KETTY BROVIG was prearranged. COBURG left Massowa 21/2 with orders to proceed eastwards. Later a R.V. was arranged with BROVIG possibly by W/T by number 16. Master of COBURG thought he would be ordered to Japan but prisoners formed opinion that COBURG was going to Germany via Pacific graded C. 3.
(ii) Method of fuelling. ADMIRAL SCHEER took 1400 tons on 16/2.
(iii) Little or no co-operation between German and Italian ships at Massowa due to mutual dislike and distrust Germans did not know RAMB ONE had sailed and state both RAMB ONE and RAMB TWO in harbour 21/2 Both armed. (See also my 1014/28/2. para one
(iv) Description number 16 from Norwegian and Chinese survivors of BROVIG follows. (C. in C., E.I., 1828Z/9)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.3.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

With recent deterioration of situation I stopped all ships of over 4,000 tons proceeding North of Hong Kong. Situation with settlement of Thailand-Indo China negotiations at Tokyo appears easier for the moment but before re-starting ships I should be grateful for your opinion. (C. in C., China, 0447/9 to H.M.A. Tokyo)

America & West Indies

BATORY	Halifax arrival RAMILLIES from H.X. 110 escorting SS BATORY. (S.O.(I) Halifax 1010/9)
B.H.X. 114 Delays.	BRAKAR, HAAKON HAUAN engine defects. PRINS WILLEMM III Capt. sick. VANJA and NORVINN to Halifax for change of crew. Outward EMPIRE UNITE with steering gear. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1201/9)
Orders for PRINCE DAVID	Enemy surface unit in estimated position 200 miles radius 026° N., 041° W., a.m/9 Proceed to patrol this area returning to Bermuda 19/3. Keep particular look out for enemy supply ship. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1242/9 to PRINCE DAVID)
H.X. 116	My 1924/7 and 1925/7. In view of my 0058/9 cruiser will not be required. (D.O.D. (H) 1244/9 to C. in C., H.F.)
H.X. Convoys	My 1343/7. Decisions re escorts. (D.O.D. (H) 1325/9) See Operations Volume
B.H.X. Convoys	Until further orders all ships which would normally be sent to Bermuda for convoy to U.K. are to be routed to Halifax instead, routed where possible within 300 miles of Coast of U.S.A. (D.T.D. 1400/9)

/B.H.X.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.3.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

B.H.X. Convoys-Contd.	B.H.X. Convoys will be suspended after B.H.X. 114 until further orders. All ships arriving at Bermuda for convoy are to be sailed independently to Halifax for convoy to U.K. (D.T.D. 1401/9)
Camouflage	Your 1721/17/2. Scheme may be of great value. Re further trials (D.T.S.D. 1556/9 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)
Orders for CARADOC	Leave Kingston Jamaica 11/3 and proceed to patrol within 100 miles of 025° N., 065° W., arrive Bermuda 17/3. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1732/9 to CARADOC)
RAMILLIES Defect	Your 1325 and 1747/9 my 0751/8. RAMILLIES arrived today with about 40 ft top bulge plating abreast of turret port side carried away by heavy weather. Ship now being listed for examination. Very unlikely to be available even for H.X. 115. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1744/9 to Admty.)
Telegram to PROXIMO	Your 0959/8 C.S.A.S. in Neutral Countries should address Admty copy of Vescas to PROXIMO, LONDON. (D.T.D. 1800/9 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)
Neutral Ships entering British Ports voluntarily.	Your 1244/2/2. Para 3a. H.M.G. hold that Neutral ships entering British ports voluntarily thereby subject themselves to municipal law for duration of their stay. Municipal law gives wider powers in matters of censorship and removal of aliens. Civil authorities alone are competent to administer it. To obtain these wide powers we regard calls of American Export Line at Bermuda as voluntary. Presumably it is with these ships that you are experiencing difficulties of dual control. Request details of these difficulties particularly with regard to case of EXCAMBION raised in your 1012/15/1. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1801/9 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.3.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

U.S. Convoy

Your 1010/7. Ships have not the endurance to proceed direct Fremantle Suez. Anticipate minimum requirements at Colombo and/or Trincomalee are as follows. (A.C.N.B. Melbourne 0548Z/9 to C. in C., E.I.)

ZEALANDIA

Departure 0235Z/8 H.M.Transport ZEALANDIA from Sydney for Thursday Island. (A.C.N.B. 0722Z/9)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.3.1941.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

MIJDRECHT (Torpedoed 7/3)	0625 7/3. 60° 31' N., 13° 53' W. Escort was with convoy. On surface. Sinking unknown but seemed fast large rusty white aft nil on fore end one class U 37/U 44/U 64/U 68. (C.E.O. 2100/9) Dutch tanker MIJDRECHT arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1710/9)
Convoy O.B. 293 (Attacked 8/3)	Report if it is considered that any ships torpedoed last night are still afloat. (C. in C., W.A., 1842/9 to WOLVERINE)
TERJE VIKEN	BRIGAND's 1650/8 C.O. reports TERJE VIKEN will probably float for some days and is danger to navigation. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2040/9)

Submarines Reported

2241 (South Atlantic)	My 2022/8. Enemy surface unit or U-Boat made further signal on U-Boat frequency at 2241 G.M.T. Bearings. (D.D.I.C. 0050/9 to MALAYA)
0829	An enemy submarine has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit (D.D.I.C., 0829/9) My 0829/9. It is probable that formation reported was H.X. III Convoy. (D.D.I.C. 0841/9)
0156/8	Approx. position of U-Boat at 0156/8 was 056°00' N., 012° 00' W., (C. in C., W.A. 1837/9 to EGRET)
0335	56°- 58° N., 15°- 19° W., position indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 551)
0931	58°- 60° N., W of 15° W., very indefinite (D.S. 551)
0859	49° N., 13° W., position indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 551)
2018	By D/F on 5025 kc/s at 2018/9, position of Italian U-Boat was 48° N., 13° W. The position is only an indication of the area. (D.D.I.C. 2120/9)

/Estimated..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.3.1941
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Aircraft description of the U-Boat attacked in position 51° - 53' N., 18° - 28' W., at 1154/9 was as follows:- No raked stern, low in water. Conning tower as in U.37. No guns visible aft. Very effective dark green and blue camouflage. Possibly U.37 type. (Mount Batten. No T.O.O.)
Your 1437/9 propose searching area until 2200 then joining S.L. 66. (MONTGOMERY 1930/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

By MIJDRECHT 7/3.

Following received:- Master MIJDRECHT reports that at 0625 G.M.T./7 in 60-31 N 13-53 W., while acting as life saving vessel to convoy O.B.O. 293 West-bound he approached lifeboat with part of DELILIAN's crew (7) who was torpedoed while doing so, he was himself torpedoed but managed to ram submarine near conning tower and when submarine was forced to surface he opened fire with his 4" gun and had two direct hits. Submarine was last observed to be sinking stern first. 1830/9. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1901/9)

By WOLVERINE 8/3.

My 0806/8. U-Boat probably destroyed after diving just ahead. Met H.X. 111 at 1630/8 p.c. and s. 059° 47' N., 011° 10' W., 117° 8½ knots. (WOLVERINE 2145/9)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.3.1941.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions — (D.D.I.C., 1402/9)

Submarines Attacked

By ABERDEEN and HARVESTER — My 2321. H.M.S. AUBRETIA with LADY LILIAN in company continues search. (ABERDEEN 0245/9)

BEVERLEY — INTERCEPT. Proceeding Loch Ewe report follows. (BEVERLEY 0930/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

Have attacked contact in 058° 39' N., 007° 10' W., which was obtained close by convoy. Oil bubbles from contact which is now stationary depth of water 70 fathoms. ABERDEEN in company, am continuing to attack. (HARVESTER 1056/9)
ABERDEEN's 1924/8. Have searched area 10 miles radius 059° 45' N., 010° 12' W LADY LILLIAN and VISENDA in company. Propose continuing search until 2200/9. (AUBRETIA 1300/9)
My 1056/9 Hunt abandoned contact non submarine. Rejoining convoy. ABERDEEN proceeding independently. (HARVESTER 1630/9)
My 1300. My position course and speed are 059° 40' N., 010° 12' W., 158° 14 knots. LADY LILLIAN detached at 1700 to rejoin convoy. (AUBRETIA 2200/9)

By Aircraft 1428 — Following received from Admty at 1435/9 U-Boat reported attacked by Sunderland in 51° 53' N., 18° 32' W., estimate 4 direct hits. T.C.O. 1428 detach one destroyer to stand by U-Boat. (C. in C., W.A., 1437/9 to WANDERER)
Your 1437/9. MONTGOMERY has been detailed. (WANDERER 1622/9)

/Aircraft...

MOST SECRET.

10.3.41.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Attacks on Convoys by E boats.	WORCESTER, additional escort to Convoy F.N.28 at 0107 today off the coast of Norfolk sighted and engaged 3 enemy E boats. The enemy escaped to the North Eastward. It is believed they fired torpedoes, unsuccessfully. At 0505 SOUTHDOWN reported that she had driven off an attack on Convoy F.S.29A which she was escorting, no ships being damaged. Two torpedoes passed under SOUTHDOWN.
	H.R. Patrol fired on suspected E boats at 2315 today.
Sweep off Scheldt.	3 M.T.B's carried out a sweep last night between Ostend and Hook of Holland.
Convoy C.W.28.	This convoy, which was attacked by aircraft and afterwards had 3 ships sunk by mines during last night, was intermittently shelled for two hours off Dover this evening. No damage is reported.
TAKU	(Disabled 26/2) arrived at Londonderry this morning with ENCHANTRESS, NORTHERN DAWN, MAN O' WAR, and a tug.
	Strikes at shipbuilding and repairing works at Belfast and Glasgow are delaying war work.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.3.41.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

C. in C. Plymouth asks that additional aircraft may be provided for regular reconnaissance of the French West coast ports, since it is probable that German cruisers are making regular use of these ports.

Owing to bad weather, the only standard patrols flown today were those in the Southern part of the North Sea. Convoy escorts were provided in the N.W. Approaches today.

Enemy Air Activity.

s.s.BUR (Norwegian) in S.L.65 B.M. was bombed this afternoon in St.George's Channel and is making for Fishguard, sinking slowly.

Convoy C.W.28 was attacked at 0020 today in the Straits of Dover. S.S. SYLVIA BEALE was hit but remained with the convoy.

Convoy F.S.31 was unsuccessfully attacked this evening off the cost of Norfolk.

Some bombs were dropped in Dover harbour and docks today. No Naval damage occurred.

Two large bombs fell in Chatham Dockyard at 0115 today but damage is very slight.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.3.41.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Mining between Beachy Head & Dungeness.

Considerable contact mining appears to have taken place recently between Beachy Head and Dungeness. S.S. SPARTA, WATERLAND and CORINIA in Convoy C.W.28 were mined and sunk early this morning off Dungeness; one ship was mined on 6/3 off Newhaven, and one yesterday off Dungeness. Mines have been swept and seen and heard to drop, and constant explosions were heard all today. 1st. M.S.F. is to carry out a sweep.

Milford Haven was closed at 0325 today and re-opened at 1530 subject to local restrictions but was closed again at 2237.

Liverpool was closed at 0235 today but was re-opened this afternoon. Wick harbour was re-opened at 0800. Sunderland, Seahaven, Tyne and Blyth are closed.

North Atlantic.

ARETHUSA, which left Gibraltar with Force H on 8/3 after SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were sighted in the Atlantic returned to Gibraltar today. REPULSE and FURIOUS arrived at 0230 and left at 2030, the former for convoy escort and the latter for operation "Pageant."

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.3.41.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aircraft Carriers.

FORMIDABLE arrived at Alexandria today and ILLUSTRIOUS sailed. EAGLE's beam prevents her from passing the wreck of the AGTHOS GEORGIOS until further dredging has been carried out.

Air raids on Malta.

Malta was attacked this morning by 3 formations of enemy aircraft approaching from different sides. One Sunderland at St.Paul's Bay was destroyed and another damaged, and a petrol lighter was hit and beached. Damage was inflicted on the enemy.

Malta was raided between 2045 and 2310 today by about 20 aircraft. Severe damage was caused in the dockyard and production will be seriously affected. R.A.F. establishments were also damaged.

Owing to the persistent attacks during the last few days on Sunderlands at their moorings these aircraft are being dispersed from Malta pending decision of policy by A.O.C. in C.

At 0502 G.M.T. today Taranto broadcast an S.O.S. from Italian s.s.FENICIA in a position between Sicily and Tripoli.

Suez.

It is reported that bombs were dropped near Suez this afternoon.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.3.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

The sailing of ships from Colombo, Kilindini, Bombay and Persian Gulf for Aden, to join Red Sea Convoys for Suez, which was stopped on 2/3 owing to congestion at Aden, was resumed today.

America and West Indies.

Leak in Blockade.

C.in C. A.W.I. suggests that the U.S.A. State Department should be sounded as to the possibility of co-operation and relaxation of the situation which precludes ourr taking action in the neutrality zone to prevent French ships carrying food, for probable German consumption.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Sanday Island.
A/A Defences.

Re mounting of Bofors guns as temporary measure. (D. of L.D. 1756/10 to Air Ministry).

Movements.

S/M's.

Your 1531/8. Estimated position of SEALION, UNDAUNTED, STURGEON at 0800/11.
(b) Request early information as to composition and movements of your Forces in order S/Ms may be kept out of the way.
(F.O.S. 1044/10 to C.in C. H.F.).

KENYA.

An Italian UB signal at 0334/10 which may have reported your p. c. and s. was re-broadcast to Italian UB's at sea one of which by D/F was in approx. 48° N. 13° W. at 2018/9. (D.D.I.C. 1133/10 to KENYA).

CAIRO.

CAIRO will be required as A.A. escort for ocean convoy sailing about 22/3 until dusk 25/3. Unless work referred to in my 1118/6 can be completed with certainty before this, it is to be deferred until CAIRO's return.
(C.in C. W.A., 1146/10 to CAIRO).

MAID MARION.
LINCOLNSHIRE.

My 749/M478 of 31/1 and my 1850/3.
MAID MARION and LINCOLNSHIRE are lent temporarily to Milford Haven.
To escort groups of merchant ships sailing between Milford Haven and Channel Ports to or from Hartland Point. Sailings are to be arranged by F.O.I.C. Milford Haven so as to R/V with Falmouth Hartland Group in 295° Hartland Point 8 miles at 1330 every third day first R/V being 1330 every third day first R/V being 1330/14.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1618/10).

H.34.

Anchor off Methil and proceed to Rosyth A.M. tomorrow. Proceed on main motors when inside May Island.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1815/10 to H.34).

RODNEY.
KING GEORGE V. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

RODNEY.
KING GEORGE V.

Programme as Convoy Escorts to be adjusted as follows. (D.O.D.H. 1946/10).

Operations.

SOUTHDOWN.
E-Boat attack.

E boats Sheringham Buoy.
(SOUTHDOWN 0445/10).
My 0445. E-boats driven off. No apparent damage to any ships.
(SOUTHDOWN 0505/10).
My 0505. No ships damaged. Two torpedoes passed under SOUTHDOWN.
(SOUTHDOWN 0544/10).

Sweep between Ostend and Hook.

Arrived M.T.B's 22 30 31 at 0750/10.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0751/10).

East Coast Patrols.

Request A/P vessels be detailed to patrol channel near 38 and 37 C Bucys tonight, vessels moving clear of channel on approach of convoys. (C.in C. Nore 1022/10 to F.O. Humber).
My 1010/9. Request this patrol be carried out again tonight, and that F W A and F W L be adjusted to patrol channel close to Sheringham Light and Bell Buoy, vessels moving clear of channel on approach of convoy. (C.in C. Nore 1026/10 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).
Cancel my 1053/10. Patrol O is not to be carried out tonight. (C.in C. Nore 1215/10 to HOLDERNESS).

Western Channel Patrol.

KELLY, KELVIN, KASHMIR, KIPLING are to proceed 1930/10 and patrol between the longitudes Eddystone and Scilly Isles. Ships to return to harbour by 0730/11. Object protecting merchant vessels sailing from Plymouth and Falmouth to the westward. (C.in C. Plymouth 1055/10).
Your 1055/10 sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2000/10.).

/ Convoy C.W.28 shelled. ....

War Diary. 10.3.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Convoy C.W.28 shelled.	No damage was done during two hours intermittent shelling. (BLENCATHRA 1026/10 to C.in C. Portsmouth).
WASTWATER	Sailed in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1831/9 at 1240 and will remain on patrol 6 days. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1241/10).
Projected S/M Operations.	Your 1932/7. Proposal is welcomed as offering a means to improve offensive reconnaissance in Iceland - Faroes passage and Denmark Straits. (C.in C. H.F. 1347/10 to Adty.).
Operation D.N.	My 1531/8. Operation D N will not take place unless further signal is made. (C.in C. H.F. 1917/10).
H.R. Patrol.	Following received from H.R. Patrol Begins. 2 unidentified small craft suspected E Boats heading S.W. Have opened fire 2315. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2330/10).

British Air Activity.

Escorts.	My 2202/9. Air escort delayed indefinitely by weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0716/10 to R.A.M.L.). With the exception of escort for O B 295 no flying is at present possible in 18 Group area. (C.in C. Rosyth 0952/10).
Iceland.	My 1741/6/2. Understand 10 Hudsons arriving shortly. Request I may be informed function of these aircraft. If for Naval Co-operation consider small operational wing H Q near F.O.i/c H.Q. essential, and operation under F.O.i/c. Cno Central R.A.F. H.Q. at Force H.Q. not acceptable for operation over sea. (F.O. Iceland, 1033/10).

/ 804 Squadron for Convoy Protection. ...

War Diary.

10.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

804 Squadron for Convoy Protection.

My 1626/3/2. Re increase in complement of 804 Squadron.
(5th S.L. 1157/10 to R.A.N.A.S.).

Own A/C fired on.

Whitley aircraft from Limavady reports meeting H.G.54 at 2031/9 and being subjected to heavy A.A. fire from escort which persisted in spite of aircraft making every endeavour to establish identity by firing all cartridges and flashing Aldis lamp and using R/T continuously which should have been observed by firing ship. Aircraft was holed and returned to base. Firing an unidentified aircraft is encouraged but this incident might well have revealed H.G.54 which proceeded without air escort. (C.in C. W.A. 1241/10 to LEITH).

19 Group. Proposed further A/C.

Presence of SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU in Atlantic and movement of HIPPER point to probability of regular use of French West Coast ports by German cruisers.
Difficult to get sufficient warning to enable them to be attacked on leaving but, if their approach can be detected the day before, there would be a good chance of a night attack by destroyers and the possibility of minelaying by aircraft.
It is assumed that the cruisers will arrive at destinations soon after daylight and air R.C. therefore required to the Westward before dark the previous day.
19 Group has insufficient suitable aircraft for a regular R.C. of this nature.
Request this requirement may be met as soon as practicable. (C.in C. Plymouth 1918/10 to Admty.).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy C.W.28
SYLVIA BEALE
(British, 1040 tons) hit.

Convoy bombed. One Merchant ship hit.
Request fighter escort from dawn till arrival.
SYLVIA BEALE received direct hit by heavy Bomb and is still seaworthy and is with Convoy. (BLENCATHRA 1026/10).

/ Portsmouth bombed. ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Portsmouth bombed.	Air raid on Portsmouth 2100 to 2330 IB's and H.E. Dockyard HR.2 electrical shop burnt out. H.E. near Unicorn Gate cut gas, electric and water mains. H.E. at East End of a lock damage thought to be slight. H.E. in No. 3 Basin. Several H.E. in harbour, casualties. VERNON some damage to miningtank etc. Casualties R.N.B. DOLPHIN slight damage 1 officer wounded. HORNET. Minor damage to M.G.B. 61. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0101/10). Details of Damage (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1630/10).
PRINZ FREDERIK HENRIK	Following received. Commodore report Dutch steamer of convoy O.B.O.295 PRINZ FREDERIK HENRIK was bombed 30 miles North West Bishops and Clerks light at 1130/8. When last seen was still afloat. T.O.O. 0155 Ends. (X.D.O. Clyde 0306/10). My 1455/9. PRINS FREDERICK HENDRIK abandoned after bombing. On fire and damaged 52° 20' N. 5° 37' W. at 1125/8. 8 missing reported killed by explosion. Crew 24. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1200/10).
Convoys E.N.83 and W.N.95. BENGLOE (British, 5318 tons) gunned. ESMOND (British, 4976 tons) bombed.	Convoys EN 83 and WN 95 attacked by aircraft at 2000/9 off Buchan Ness. Details not yet known but S.S. ESMOND in EN 83 is proceeding Aberdeen under own power with 7 casualties. No other ship reported hit. (C.in C. Rosyth 0927/10). Fighters have been despatched to assist convoys USAGE and CHEERY. (Lyness W/T 1157/10). My 0927/10. Commodore of E.N.83 reports convoy was twice attacked apparently by single A/C at 1430/9 when Vice Commodore's ship S.S.BENGLOE was machine gunned and missed by two bombs which did not explode and again at 2001/9. Commodore's ship S.S. ESMOND was target of second attack. Two bombs missed and one hit caused superficial damage and 7 casualties ESMOND entering Aberdeen now for repairs to steering engine which was put out of action. (C.in C. Rosyth 1233/10). British ESMOND bombed by German plane in 57° 21' N. 1° 38' W. at 2055/9. Seven wounded, all in hospital here. Ship now in Aberdeen for repairs. Damage not extensive. Casualty List as follows. (N.C.S.O. Aberdeen 1636/10).

/ Convoys W.N. Even.
CHEERY. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.3.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoys W.N. Even. CHEERY.	Fighters are being sent to the assistance of Convoys CHITTY and CHEERY. (Lyness W/T 1101/10).
ARORA. Wreckage of Lifeboat.	Wreckage of lifeboat has been retrieved showing evidence of having been machine gunned bearing identification mark A 320 which indicates steam trawler ARORA of Aberdeen. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1210/10).
Convoy S.L.65. BUR (Norwegian, 4343 tons) bombed.	Help convoy S.L. Position 280° 34 miles from 52° N. 5° W. (TULIP 1322/10). Sailed Rescue Tug SEINE to assist Norwegian vessel BUR in S.L.65 B.M. bombed in 52° 12' N. 05° 52' W. at 1322 today, sinking slowly and making for Fishguard escorted by TULIP. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1610/10). BUR beached in Fishguard Harbour. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1956/10).
Chatham.	After raid report 10/3 Slight damage. Details. (C.in C. Nore 1705/10). At approx. 0115/10 two bombs were dropped in the dockyard. One fell on main road 120 feet inside dockyard main gate. Large crater formed temporarily closing road. Underground services in vicinity appear intact. Adjacent underground refuge partially damaged. No casualties. Bomb believed 1000 lbs. size. Second bomb fell between Ropery and No. 2 store, Anchor wharf and is UX. Work in both Ropery and No.2. store temporarily stopped. (Supt. C.E. Chatham, 1800/10 and 1845/10).
Dover bombed.	At about 1520 today two aircraft probably fighter bombers dropped seven bombs. Five fell in harbour and docks, of which one in Granville dock reported unexploded. Two, of which one unexploded, fell in town near water front. No casualties and no damage to service property. (V.A. Dover 2031/10).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

B.S.51. My 1127/9. Sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0033/10).
Return to Portsmouth. (V.A. Dover 0310/10 to D.20). My 0033/10. Returned. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0820/10)
My 1652/8. 20th D.F. delayed indefinitely.
Operation BS 51 is postponed.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1233/10).

S.N.68 B. Scapa departures 2335/9 EDINBURGH and NIGERIA. (A.C.C.S. 0204/10).
Your 1050/10. First M.L. Flotilla sailed 1425/10. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1450/10 to C.in C. Nore).

Convoy C.W.28. CORINIA (Swedish Tanker, 6303 tons) WATERLAND SPARTA sunk. 2 possibly 3 ships mined in 050° 45' N. 000° 48' E. (BLENCATHRA 0210/10).
Three ships of BACON have been mined in 50° 55' N. 0° 35' E. at 0210 hrs. Despatch one A/C at first light to search for survivors. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0312/10).
My 0310. Two ships of C.W.28 mined. Situation not clear. (V.A.Dover 0320/10 to D.20).
Following ships sunk by mines. CORINIA WATERLAND SPARTA. Motor launches are being sent in with survivors. (BLENCATHRA 1026/10).

Liverpool. Port of Liverpool closed due to suspected minelaying by enemy action.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0235/10).
Port of Liverpool re-opened.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1500/10).

Milford Haven. Port of Milford Haven closed owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0325/10).

Wick. Wick Harbour opened 0800. (Wick 0803/10).

Thames Estuary. One S.A. Mine detonated at 2038/9/3 in 107° N.E. Singles Buoy 3.4 cables.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 0921/10).

Explosions off Newhaven. 3 heavy explosions in a south easterly direction heard during the last 20 minutes.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0946/10).
Further explosions heard on same bearings.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1010/10).
Constant explosion all day in area when Mine Sweeping is taking place.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1701/10).

/ Sunderland. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS. (Contd.)

Mining.

Sunderland.
Seaham.
Tyne.
Blyth.

Sunderland Seaham Tyne and Blyth are closed. Ships in F.N.28 bound for these ports are to be diverted to Humber.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1037/10 to PYTCHLEY).

S.N.100.

Sweeping of S.N.100 postponed. Weather unsuitable for recovery.
(R.A.M. 1242/10.).

Plymouth.
HATSUSE
damaged 9/3
Two additional
LL Trawlers
requested.

Trawler HATSUSE detonated acoustic mine under her bows at 1745 in approximate position 180° Penlee Point 1.2 miles, HATSUSE beached, Cawsand Bay in sinking condition. Fourteen minor casualties.
M/S Trawlers LUDA LORD and HATSUSE both severely damaged and will be out of action for several weeks.
At present time only three LL Trawlers are available for Sweeping at Plymouth.
Request two additional LL Trawlers may be allocated as soon as possible.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1257/10).

Dungeness to
Portsmouth Sweep.

All available oil burning ships of 1st and 4th M.S.F. are to be sailed so as to arrive off Dover prepared to carry out an exploratory sweep between Dungeness and Portsmouth commencing at daylight tomorrow. Names of ships available to be signalled. Further instructions will be signalled later. (A.C.N.S. H. 1340/10).
Your 1340/10 BRAMBLE (S.O.) BRITOMART SPEEDY SHARPSHOOTER HEBE NIGER.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1302/10 to Admty.).
Admiralty 1340/10. Route for ships.
To arrive off Dover at 0530/11.
(C.in C. Nore 1602/10).
My 1340/10. S.O. 1st M.S.F. taking all available oil burning Minesweepers under his orders is to carry out a high percentage exploratory sweep on a two mile front along the following route.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1743/10).
Request Fighter Co-operation for 7 Halcyon class minesweepers from dawn to dusk 11/3. Escort. Position at 0700 070°. Dungeness 8 miles. Speed 7 knots. (D.O.D.H. 1856/10 to H.Q.F.C.).
Admiralty's 1340/10. Departures, BRAMBLE (M/S 1) BRITOMART, SPEEDY, SHARPSHOOTER, HEBE and NIGER (M/S 4).
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2146/10).

/ 8th M/S. F. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Minings. (Contd.)

8th M/S.F. — Request you will sail available ships of 8th M.S.F. to Harwich as soon as possible. (A.C.N.S. H. 1341/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Milford Haven. — Port is open subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1530/10). Port of Milford Haven closed owing to minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2237/10).

Enemy Minefield off Stadlandet. — It is reported (C.2) that Germans laid a minefield off Stadlandet just before new year approximately "in the sector between N.W. and N. of Kjerringa and North of Kraakones". Fishing is prohibited in this area. (D.D.I.C. 1638/10).

7th M/S. F. — Two ships of 7th M.S.F. are to be sailed for North Shields P.M.11th. (C.in C. Rosyth 1701/10/3 to N.O.I.C. Leith).

Dover Area. 2 Mines cut. — Clearance sweep today Monday in Q.Z.S.207 and Q.Z.X.313. Two mines cut. (V.A. Dover 1844/10).

Enemy Intelligence.

Suspicious Vessel. — Master of s.s. GUNVOR MAERSK (Ex Dane) reports sighting suspicious vessel at 0215 G.M.T./2nd in 54° 12' N. 37° 14' W. Tried to make enemy report by W/T to Portishead but failed. When avoiding action was taken this vessel followed. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1245/10).

BOCKENHEIM. — It is reported Wilhelmsen ship BOCKENHEIM ex TAIPING and TARONGA adapted as a raider may leave Oslo 11/3 escorted by armed whale catchers. (F.O.S. 1946/10 to S/M's Area A.).

/ Darkened M/V. ....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

Darkened M/V. — Finnish Ship KASTELHOLM reports sighting darkened merchant vessel of about 7500 tons at about 1800 local time on 6/3 in 59° 30' N. 023° W. Ship was steering 228° but altered course to N.W. She had one funnel and appeared to have cut-away bows. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 2200/10).

MATTHIAS HUGO STINNES (5337 tons). KATHERINA DOROTHEA PRITZEN (7843 tons) — Reported (B.2) to have arrived at Gothenburg during February for repairs. (D.S. 552.).

Pyrites for Germany. — A report (B.2) states that every five days a 3000 to 6000 ton ship leaves Thameshavn in Trondheim Fiord with Pyrites for Germany. (D.S. 552).

Miscellaneous.

Strikes at Glasgow. — Details. Position serious unless Government action is taken. (Clanrap, Glasgow, 1524/10 to Adty.).
Serious delay is taking place on important war work. (Fairfield, Glasgow 1508/10 to Adty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.3.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

Darkened M/V. Finnish Ship KASTELHOLM reports sighting darkened merchant vessel of about 7500 tons at about 1800 local time on 8/3 in 59° 30' N. 023° W. Ship was steering 228° but altered course to N.W. She had one funnel and appeared to have cut-away bows. (H.O.I.C. Kirkwall 2200/10).

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MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Protection of E. coast convoys against E.boat attacks.

Your 2228/8. Approved to give this proposal a trial. (D.O.D.(H) 1522/10 to C.in C. Nore).

Stragglers for Bristol.

For N.C.S.Os. Ref. N.C.S.I.162, para. 2(b) now in course of distribution, stragglers from ocean convoys bound for Bristol Channel ports who become separated from their convoy before reaching the Irish Sea are to proceed to Belfast instead of Swansea Bay. (D.T.D. 1732/10 to A.I.C. 48).

Kites and Balloons.

Following conditions governing the flying of Admiralty kites and balloons from ships have been agreed and come into force forthwith:- (Air Ministry 1815/10, to Commands).

Coastal Convoys.

F.N.27.

List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Humber, 0236/10) Tyne, etc. closed. Ships to continue to Methil (C.in C. Rosyth 0625/10) Cancel my 1600/9, nothing joined. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0327/10) 2 absentees (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1459/10) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1510/10) Arrivals of escorts. (C.in C. Rosyth 2331/10).

"Ounce".

Postponed, suspected minelaying (F.O.I.C. Milford H., 0253/10).

F.N.29.

Postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Nore, 0735/10).

F.N.28.

Intend leaving for Harwich daylight. (Capt. D.16, 0617/10) SAPPHIRE to remain with rear portion (C.in C. Nore 0947/10) VESPER to leave (C.in C., Nore, 1008/10) Sunderland, etc., closed. Ships to be diverted to Humber (C.in C. Rosyth 1037/10). My p.c. and s. etc. (VESPER, 1050/10 to C.in C. Nore) Your 1050, Concur (C.in C. Nore 1221/10).
Ships to anchor off Humber L.V. (C.in C. Nore 1439/10 to SAPPHIRE) If your ships have joined FYTCHLEY, return to Harwich with F.S.31 (C.in C. Nore 1533/10 to SAPPHIRE) 3 ships to join (list) (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1643/10)

/ W.N. 96. ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

W.N.96.	Position (A.C.O.S. 0810/10). May meet E.N.83 (A.C.O.S. 0844/10) Positions W.N.96 and E.N.83 (A.C.O.S. 1043/10).
"Watch".	Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 0853/10).
F.S.31.	1 absentee (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0926/10) 14 ships (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0928/10) To proceed by QZS 172. (C.in C. Nore 1003/10 to WESTMINSTER) M.L's to escort (C.in C. Nore 1050/10) HOLDERNESS and COTTESMORE to join. (C.in C. Nore 1053/10). Instructions to proceed. (C.in C. Nore 1214/10 to WESTMINSTER) E.T.A. (WESTMINSTER 1353/10) Humber ships arrived, exceptions. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1716/10).
E.N.83.	Position (A.C.O.S. 1043/10).
F.S.29A.	Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber 0958/10) Position. 14 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. 1812/10).
F.N.26.	Arrivals, etc. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1114/10).
E.N.84.	1100/11, escorts, 28 ships. Code "Paddle". (N.C.S.O. Methil 1201/10).
"Scent".	Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1310/10).
E.N.82.	1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1300/10).
W.N.95.	Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1418/10) (C.in C. Rosyth 2331/10).
F.S.32.	Sailed 1400/10, 5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1427/10) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1642/10) 1 ship from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber 1731/10).
C.W.28.	13 M.V's arrived, 3 missing. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1603/10).
W.N.U.97.	1400/12 unescorted, 24 ships (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1657/10).
"Wheel"	Sailed, escorts, list (9 ships and E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1831/10).
"Range".	Sailed, 4 for Southampton, 1 for Cowes. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1849/10).

/ F.N.29. ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.29.	0730/11, ships to date 33 LE TIGRE and COVENTRY CITY additional escorts. (C.in C. Nore 2058/10).
F.S.33.	Sailed 2300/10, 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2335/10).
W.N.97.	2040/10, 3 escorts, 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2100/10).

Ocean Convoys.

?	KENYA to rejoin and escort to North Channel (C.in C. Plymouth 0955/10). Am complying (C.S.10, 1055/10).
H.X.110 B.	To anchor for night. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1144/10 to HAVELOCK, 1148/10 to HARVESTER) HARVESTER rejoined (HARVESTER, 1727/10).
O.B.U.295.	1145/10, unescorted, 9 ships. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1242/10) List (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1524/10).
O.B.298) S.L.67.)	9th Escort Group to operate with as A/S S.F. (C.in C. W.A. 1327/10 amended 2355/11).
H.G.54.	Escorting VIZALMA to Oban, ABELIA to Clyde. (BROKE, 1330/10).
H.G.54 B.	0730/11 unescorted, 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1530/10, 2130/10).
S.L.68.	Will sail p.m./12 (C.in C. S.A., 1345N/10 to Admty.) See also South Atlantic.
O.B.296.	COSSACK, MAORI and ZULU available for. (C.in C. H.F., 1411/10) Sailed 1315/10, 7 ships (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1531/10 List (1532/10) Escorts, departures, (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1705/10).
O.B.O.296.	0400/11, 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1515/10).

/ O.B.U.296. ....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.U.296.	1130/12, WHITEHALL and WINCHELSEA, 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Loche Ewe, 1523/10).
H.G.56.	List and destinations (22 ships). (? to Admty., 1531/10).
S.C.25.	Sailing telegram (34 ships) (S.C.N.O.Halifax 1439/10) LACONIA and THUNDERBOLT, ocean escorts, left. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1532/10).
S.C.23.	ABERDEEN to escort Bristol Channel ships. (C.in C. W.A., 1545/10).
H.X.111.	Met. (CHESTERFIELD, 1555/10) May meet O.B.295 in N. Minch about 1900. (C.in C. W.A., to CHELSEA, VERITY etc. 1602/10).
O.B.295.	Estimate will meet E.N.83 at 2000/10. (C.in C. W.A., 1559/10 to SARDONYX).
O.B.297.	0300/13, unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1715/10).
H.X.111 U.	Arrived 2130/10, 4 ships (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 2259/10).
O.B.C.296.	2225/10, FREESIA, 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2359/10).

Military Convoys.

BURMA.	Cancel my 1718/8. (D.O.D. H. 1237/10).

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

PRINCE OF WALES. My 1600/3. Neither Y nor B turrets are in condition to pass equipment trials 10th/11 March and trials have been postponed. But anticipate ship sailing 24/3. (PRINCE OF WALES 0905/10).

STANFORTH (British, 1817 tons). Grounded Seaton Sands 0430 approx. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0925/10).

A/P Vessel N.40. and PETWORTH. Slight collision occurred at 0710/10 between S.S. PETWORTH and A.P. Vessel N. 40. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1230/10).

EMPEROR OF INDIA. (Eagle Ship) Owing to defect sailing deferred. (F.O.I.C. London 1305/10).

AUBRETIA. (Corvette) Speed reduced to 9 knots by defect. Am proceeding to Greenock E.T.A. 0400/11. (AUBRETIA 1515/10).

H.28. H.28 has sustained damage in collision with merchant ship and requires dock for repairs. She can proceed under own power. Request I may be informed of Port for repairs. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1530/10).

BALTARA (Broke down 5/3) Screening BALTARA. Position at 1340 G.M.T. 049° 56' N. 023° 25' W. drifting 258° 8 knots. BALTARA position unchanged. (ST. ELSTAN 1900/10).

S.S. CORINIA My 1643/4. CORINIA grounded and abandoned south of Reykjavik 8/3. No loss of life Master states confidential matter on board. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1946/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raider Situation.

My 1756/27/2.

North Atlantic. TRELAWNEY attacked East of Newfoundland 22/2 may have been sunk by SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU which were sighted by MALAYA in 21° 37' N., 20° 20'W., course 245° at 20 knots, 1700/8. Unit possibly supply ship still in area 26° N., 41° W.

South Atlantic. No definite information but if SCHEER is returning to Germany, she might be approaching Ascension Area. One raider is reported escorting whaling prizes home. (D.3.) One other raider possibly still operating.

Indian Ocean. LEANDER and CANBERRA sank COBURG from Massawa 21/2 and prize KETTY BROVIG of Saya De Malha 4/3. KETTY BROVIG captured by Raider C (see my 1951/4/1) 2/2 N.W. of Seychelles. This raider is also responsible for SPEYBANK about 31/1 and MANDASOR about 24/1 KETTY BROVIG fuelled C on 12/2 and SCHEER 16/2. Latter had probably just arrived from Atlantic, but may have been at sea since end of September. TANNENFELS from Kismayu 31/1 was in company with C but reported to be returning to Germany. (D.3.)

Pacific. No fresh information but at least one raider believed still present. (D.D.I.C. 1738/10), (1615/12).

North Atlantic.

REPULSE, FURIOUS. Gibraltar arrivals. (S.O.(I) Gib: 0230/10).

Missing A/C safe. Spanish CABO DE BUENA ESPERANZA reports:- Swordfish Aircraft and crew missing since Saturday night now safe in the ship bound for Teneriffe (Ends). Message is signed Lieutenant G.R.Bown. (F.O.C.N.A. 0418/10 to S.O. Force H). Spanish S.S. CABO IRANNA ESPERANZA has on

/board

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.3.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic.

REPULSE, FURIOUS.

Gibraltar arrivals.
(S.O.(I) Gib: 0230/10).

Missing
A/C safe.

Spanish CABO DE BUENA ESPERANZA reports:-
Swordfish Aircraft and crew missing since Saturday night now safe in the ship bound for Teneriffe (Ends). Message is signed Lieutenant G.R.Bown.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0418/10 to S.O. Force H).
Spanish S.S. CABO TRANNA ESPERANZA has on

/board

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raider Situation.

	My 1756/27/2.
North Atlantic.	TRELAWNEY attacked East of Newfoundland 22/2 may have been sunk by SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU which were sighted by MALAYA in 21° 37' N., 20° 20'W., course 245° at 20 knots, 1700/8. Unit possibly supply ship still in area 26° N., 41° W.
South Atlantic.	No definite information but if SCHEER is returning to Germany, she might be approaching Ascension Area. One raider is reported escorting whaling prizes home. (D.3.) One other raider possibly still operating.
Indian Ocean.	LEANDER and CANBERRA sank COBURG from Massawa 21/2 and prize KETTY BROVIG of Saya De Malha 4/3. KETTY BROVIG captured by Raider C (see my 1951/4/1) 2/2 N.W. of Seychelles. This raider is also responsible for SPEYBANK about 31/1 and MANDASOR about 24/1 KETTY BROVIG fuelled C on 12/2 and SCHEER 16/2. Latter had probably just arrived from Atlantic, but may have been at sea since end of September. TANNENFELS from Kismayu 31/1 was in company with C but reported to be returning to Germany. (D.3.)
Pacific.	No fresh information but at least one raider believed still present. (D.D.I.C. 1738/10), (1615/12).

North Atlantic.

REPULSE, FURIOUS.	Gibraltar arrivals. (S.O.(I) Gib: 0230/10).
Missing A/C safe.	Spanish CABO DE BUENA ESPERANZA reports:- Swordfish Aircraft and crew missing since Saturday night now safe in the ship bound for Teneriffe (Ends). Message is signed Lieutenant G.R.Bown. (F.O.C.N.A. 0418/10 to S.O. Force H). Spanish S.S. CABO IRANNA ESPERANZA has on

/board

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Missing A/C Safe. (Contd.)

board crew of a naval A/C rescued at sea. Report arrangements for their repatriation to Gibraltar, there should be no question of internment. Convey to Master my thanks.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1006/10 to Consul, Teneriffe).
Position where picked up. 21° 41'N., 20° 40'W., date not mentioned.
(N[illegible], Buenos Aires, 1645/10 to S.O.I.Gib).

S.L.67. Escort.

On parting company from S.L.67 proceed Gibraltar through following positions: Cancel my 1204/8 to Capt: D.8. and FORESTER.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1548/10 to Capt: D.8. ASPHODEL).

REPULSE
FURIOUS
DUNCAN
FOXHOUND.

Departure in accordance with Admty. 1416/9 routed through 018° N., 020° W., E.T.A. Freetown 1400 Zone plus 1/16.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2032/10 to Admty etc.)

South Atlantic.

DAGEID.

Overdue shipping. Norwegian DAGEID due Ango - (? ANJL) 28/2 from Aruba departure 6/2 has not been reported. Enquiries being made.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 0718/10).

ANGLO AFRICAN,
MASIRAW,
PACIFIC.

Overdue shipping due Capetown 6/3, all not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 0958B/10).

DELHI.

Your 0940Z/5/3. D LHI has leaky condenser which is being repaired. Following programme proposed.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1000B/10 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

L.L.Sweepers. Revised dates of completion.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1016B/10).

DORDRECHT
"Q" Report. Your 1833/9. DORDRECHT arrived Freetown 8/3. Suspicious ship reported by her proved to be CAP DES PALMES.
(C.in C. S.A. 1115/10 to Admty).

W.S.6. Transhipment is necessary at Durban for some of the personnel in W.S.6. for the following reasons. Proposals.
(D.S.T. 1300/10 to C.in C. E.I., C.in C. S.A.)
Release of refrigerated ships and transfer of personnel mentioned in my 1300/10 necessitate proposing following changes to arrangements in your 2033/7.
(D. of S.T. 2309/10 to C.in C. S.A.)
Realised that proposals in D. of S.T's 1300/10 and 2309/10 will complicate your escort arrangements, but hoped you will be able to meet all requirements without delaying convoy. You will appreciate that release of the meat ships is of vital importance to this country.
(D.O.D.(F) 2353/10 to C.in C. S.A.)

MALAYA
MAURITIUS
S.L.68. Your 1841/9. Concur with intended arrangements. MALAYA expected to arrive Freetown 13/3. She should accompany S.L.68 to latitude of Azores proceeding thence to Gibraltar. Request you will sail MAURITIUS later so as to relieve MALAYA and accompany convoy to U.K. unless fuel considerations compel her to leave earlier.
(D.O.D.(F) 1317/10 to C.in C. S.A.)

S.L.68. Your 1907/9 and my 1841/9. Convoy S.L.68 will sail p.m./12.
(C.in C. S.A. 1345N/10 to Admty).

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WAR DIARY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

S.African Defence.	Union Director of Seaward Defence request Admiralty appreciation of Situation in Union Waters regarding (A) minelaying (b) Submarine activity and (c) raids or other sea-borne attacks in the event of Japan entering war. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1442B/10, to Admty).
German SENTINEL II.	Your 1417/1/9/1939. Ex German cable ship SENTINEL II now SANTA ELENA after being laid up seven months now sold to Bunge Born for Argentine Brazil coasting trade. (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1745/10).
DELPHINULA, for W.S.7.	My 2109/27. TERJE VIKEN sunk. Tanker DELPHINULA being loaded with water for W.S.7. (D. of S.T. 1752/10 to C.in C. S.A.)
PROME.	My 2332/4. Now appears possible that S.S. PROME will not arrive Freetown before 17/3. (D.O.D.(F) 1822/10 to C.in C. S.A., C.in C., E.I.)
ABGARA.	Your 1149/5. Is there any evidence that master is taking orders from owner in Germany? (D.N.I. 1823/10 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro).
Sunderlands.	Admty. 2303/16/1 and 2338/4/3. It is hoped that two Sunderlands will leave for Freetown via Gibraltar on first suitable day after 12/3. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1901/10 to C.in C. S.A.)
FRISCO Italian.	My 1506/7 Ceara reports appears ready for sea, customs officer remains on board day and night, full cargo 5000 tons Naphtha. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2203Z/10).

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WAR DIARY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

UNIQUE.	Your 1846/9. No recalling signal received. E.T.A. Marsamxett 0700 B/12 One main generator out of action. (UNIQUE 0003/10 to S.O.(S) Malta).
FENICIA.	At 0502 G.M.T./10. Taranto broadcast an S.O.S. from Italian S.S. FENICIA in position 034° 19'N., 012° 40'E. (Capt: O.S. Alexandria, 0858/10 to V.A. Malta, C.in C. Med.)
CONTE ROSSO, CITTA DI MESSINA, ARMANDO DIAZ.	Following from Navy Department from U.S. Naval Attache, Rome, dated 7/3, source believed reliable. Troopships CONTE ROSSO and CITTA DI MESSINA plus light cruiser ARMANDO DIAZ sunk, both heavy loss of life including German air mechanics. (N.A.Washington, 1015/10).
KATIE MOLLER.	Collided 1127/8 with Greek S.S. SOFIA in Salamis. KATIE MOLLER holed below water, has been beached and discharging cargo into lighters. (S.T.O. Piraeus, 1028/10 to D. of S.T.)
Tripoli Bombed. Durazzo bombed.	Operational Summary No.273 up to 1200/10/3. Day 8/3. 4 Wellingtons dropped 10000 lbs. of bombs on Tripoli harbour. Night 8-9/3 4 Wellingtons dropped 9750 lbs of bombs on harbour installations Durazzo starting 5 fires followed by violent explosions. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1127/10).
FORMIDABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS, EAGLE.	FORMIDABLE arrived Alexandria. ILLUSTRIOUS is sailing for Port Said at 1600/10 and will transit canal as soon as possible. Regret no A/S escort can be provided for onward passage. Suggest she should proceed Port Sudan to avait escort. EAGLE's Beam forbids her passing wreck of AGHIOS GHORDHOS until further dredging has been carried out. (C.in C. Med., 1128/10 to Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Flag of R.A. A/C.

Flag of R.A. Aircraft Carriers was transferred ILLUSTRIOUS to FORMIDABLE today (C.in C. Med., 1157/10).

Minesweepers, Turkey.

1500/8. Visiting Istanbul dockyard 10/3 two out of four vessels taken over for minesweeping were seen fitting out and 13 others eventually to be taken in hand. Selected vessels said by Turkish Navy to be quite unsuitable for their work on account of their slow speed six to seven knots.
(Adm. Kelly, 1215/10 to C.in C. Med.)

Eurekas.

Ref: 0901/24 from C.in C. Middle East. Shipment of Eurekas approx. date, and names of ships. (Hd. of M., 1246/10 to C.in C. M.E., C.in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume.

Air Attacks on Sunderlands.

In last few days there have been persistent attacks on Sunderlands at Moorings. To-days attack burned out L.2164 and damaged T.9046. Pending decision of policy by A.O.C.in C. aircraft are being dispersed from Malta. (details). (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1740/10).

Malta Air Raids. Petrol Lighter Beached.

Malta. G.M.T. 1020/3. Three enemy formations approached from different sides. 8 Hurricanes up endeavoured to engage 3 DO. 215's which crossed South Coast but turned away before releasing bombs. Simultaneously 9 ME 109's on 2 formations made low machine gun attack on Sunderland at St. Pauls Bay. Ground defences engaged and probably shot 1 into sea and damaged 2 others. Our losses 1 Sunderland burnt out and another Sunderland temporarily unserviceable. Petrol lighter hit below waterline beached before sinking. Casualties nil.
(H.Q. Med. 1645/10).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy M/V's.	2 enemy merchant ships unescorted passed Kelibia at 1700B/10 southwards, speed 8 knots. (Cdr. S.1. 2003/10 to S/Ms on Patrol.)
Movements.	In progress or intended - 7th C.S., 3rd C.S., Force "A" convoys. A.N.19., A.S.18 A.G.5. (C.in C. Med., 2114/10). Original in Lion copy only.
Submarine Recognition Signals.	Day grenade, night grenade, subordinate flashing signals will not be used by submarines to identify themselves to aircraft. Consequently the identification flare is the only recognition signal used by Allied Submarines on surface to identify themselves to aircraft. (2) Submarines on surface outside a total bombing restriction area, which does not establish correct identification flare should be attacked. (3) Above procedure is now in force on Home, Mediterranean and North Atlantic Station. (Air Ministry, 2200/10 to H.Q. R.A.F. Med.)
TINOS LIVORNO TRAPANI.	Departure 8/3 German Steamer TINOS for Marseilles. 9/3 arrival, German Steamer LIVORNO, TRAPANI. (Valencia T.H.I. 2300/10).

East Indies.

B.N.19.	Departure AUCKLAND with B.N.19. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0430/10). List of B.N.19, 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 0650Z/10).
GREGORIAS C.2.	Overdue ship Greek GREGORIAS C.2. left during daylight 11/2 for Aden. (S.O.(I) Colombo 0436/10 to Admty).

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Mogadiscio
Brava
Merca.

My 0738/6. Present situation (re harbour craft, lighters etc.)((1) Mogadiscio. (2) Brava. (3) Merca).Details will be given (C.in C. E.I. 0736/10 to Admty). in Station Intelligence Report.

Eritrea
supply ships.

Ref: 573//13225/4 of 8/5. 1940 and subsequent communication. Supply arrangements for Eritrea likely to become acute particularly after fall of Massawa. Am endeavouring to obtain suitable supply ship but tug will also be required. DELAVAR would be most suitable. No other available E.I.Station.
Can diplomatic action be taken urgently to sucure use of DELAVAR. Understand that on lapse of Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Lease vessel becomes property of the Iranian Govt., who would require compensation.
(C.in C. E.I. 0806Z/10 to Admty).
(Repeating 0806Z/10). At least one vessel required for permanent supply work. Propose ex Italian MANON after reconditioning at Bombay be used unless another can be provided sooner.
(C.in C. E.I. 0808Z/10 to D. of S.T.)

EMERALD
DAUNTLESS,
ANTENOR,
B.M.4.

My 1126/3. EMERALD is to leave Colombo 1030Z/11 and after carrying out practice is to R/V with ANTENOR and B.M.4. in 005° 40'N., 079° 06' at 0200Z/12.
EMERALD will relieve ANTENOR as escort in above position. On relief, ANTENOR is to proceed to Bombay so as to arrive a.m./15.
C.in C. China, 0557/8. R/V for DAUNTLESS with EMERALD and B.M.4. is 006° 25' 083° 35'.ϟ EMERALD is to leave DAUNTLESS and B.M.4. in 010° 092° and is then to proceed to Colombo so as to arrive 0500Z/17.
(C.in C. E.I. 0818Z/10).
ϟ At 0300Z/13.

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WAR DIARY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Details of Raider.

My 1828/9. Description of raider resembles closely that of ATLANTIS given in my 1358/3 and F.E.C.B. 811 except that the stern is given as counter and not cruiser, but N.O.I.C. Mauritius has been asked to verify this by further interrogation.

(ii) In view of similarity of description which is confirmed by CANBERRA's 1805/7 passed to you in my 1706/8, it is considered practically certain that the ATLANTIS TAMESIS, and No. 16 are the same ship. Change of appearance is effected in many ways including following:-
(C.in C. E.I. 1052Z/10).

Mine field in Small Bab el Mandeb Strait.

C.in C. E.I. 1054/10. See Operations Volume.

Ex Italian Prizes.

My 1202/2. Volunteers will take ships to Bombay. Arrangements re pay etc.
(C.in C. E.I., 1136/10 to Admty).

OBSERVER.

Have you any news of her?
(D.T.D. 1326/10 to N.C.S.O. Calcutta.)

Sailings from Aden to join B.N. Convoys.

Cancel my 0550/2. Normal sailings for Red Sea convoys are to be resumed forthwith. If a number of ships of similar speed are sailed together use wide dispersion.
(C.in C. E.I. 1634Z/10 to N.C.S.O's Colombo, Bombay, etc.)

Italian Ships RAMB I MONCALIERI.

My 1154/2. Conclusions are: (1) RAMB I was scuttled by two dynamite charges as well as LEANDER's fire. (2) MONCALIERI has been sunk in Massawa by bombs. (3) RAMB I left Massawa at a moments notice. Believe that, although orders had been given to raid commerce on passage, this was a test case to see if escape to neutral country such as Japan for remaining ships possible and an armed ship used for purpose. Otherwise lack of organisation, suitably trained officers, crew etc., inexplicable.
(C.in C. E.I. 1642Z/10 to Admty etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.8.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Massawa. My 1600/27/2 and 1631/5. Decided not to plant cucumbers at Massawa.
Air Ministry's 1745/5 is being passed to you for information under T.O.O. 2351/10.
(Head of M., 2350/10 to C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ILE DE FRANCE.
AQUITANIA.

Your 0120/8. (Proposing use of ILE DE FRANCE instead of AQUITANIA). Earliest date ILE DE FRANCE ready to sail is (-). Sailing of AQUITANIA dependent upon (? amount) of work to be carried out while at Singapore; instructions requested. (A.S. Singapore 0328Z/10 to D. of S.T).
Your 0120/8. Concur with use of ILE DE FRANCE (A.C.N.B. 0840Z/10 to D. of S.T).

TAMESIS.

Please confirm receipt of Admty. 1954/8 (Norwegian TAMESIS due at Manila) Do you expect any difficulty in sailing ship for Hong Kong with Cargo referred to? Most desirable that Japanese and Shanghai consignee should not be informed of diversion to Hong Kong. (Cdre i/c Hong Kong 0459Z/10 to Consul-Gen., Manila).

DAUNTLESS.
ABERDARE.
HARROW.

Penang departures 9/3 DAUNTLESS. Amend my 0841/9 re movement of ABERDARE, HARROW to read Singapore departure 9/3 for Colombo via Penang and Nancowry. (S.O.I. Singapore 0933Z/10 to Admty, etc).

N.E.I.
Naval
Units.

Your 0251/27/2 and 1431Z/7/3 and my 0115/5/3. Request you signal weekly present and intended dispositions of Netherlands E.I. Cruisers, Destroyers and Submarines, and any important changes as they occur. Dutch Naval Authorities in London concur. (D.O.D.(F) 1816/10 to C. in C. China).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

CONTE ROSSO CITTA DI MESSINA ARMANDO DIAZ.

Following from Navy Dept. from U.S. N.A. Rome dated 7/3 believed reliable. Troopships CONTE ROSSO and CITTA DI MESSINA plus ARMANDO DIAZ sunk both heavy loss of life including German air mechanics. (N.A. Washington 1015/10).

Comment by N.I.D.

This information is believed to be correct. It had previously seemed probable that the cruiser sunk by UPRIGHT on 25/2 was either the DIAZ or the BARBIANO and it may now be considered certain that the DIAZ was the cruiser sunk.

The CONTE ROSSO (17,859 tons) was twice reported in the neutral press during this month to have been sunk by a mine off Sicily. C. in C. Med. reported on 17/2 that the CITTA DI MESSINA (2,472 tons) was believed to have been sunk by REGENT on 15/1 off Misurata.

BAJAMAR. K.G. MELDAHL.

Your 1729/7 and 2207/7. BAJAMAR left New York 8/3 and will proceed unescorted, cover being afforded by DESPATCH vide My 1112/8. Decision regarding Escort for K.G. MELDAHL will be made on receipt of R.A.3 reply to My 0952/8. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1142/10 to Admty).

S.C.25.

Departure Halifax 10/3 LACONIA, THUNDERBOLT ocean escort S.C.25. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1532/10)

RAMILLIES, RODNEY, KING GEORGE V.

Re escort arrangements for H.X. 114 and H.X. 115 and S.C. 25 (D.O.D. (H) 1946/10 to R.A.3 etc) See Operations Volume.

PRINCE DAVID.

Your 1241/9. Request you will postpone the entry of PRINCE DAVID into this area until the vessel mentioned in my 1247/10 (given a "hush" distribution) is clear of it. (D.O.D.(F) 1948/10 to C. in C. A.W.I).

/S.C.25.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

S.C. 25. C.O.A.C. Halifax's 1229/6. Deletions.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 1721/10 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

French Shipments. Evidence from Trinidad censor indicates bananas shipped French Antilles to occupied France (?plundered by) Germans. Reliable report by loyal Frenchman Martinique states Vichy promises to take estimated (? group omitted) 70 to 80 thousand tons. It is believed in Martinique that about 60% will find its way to Germany and suggested that British divert shipment to United States who would send supplies in exchange. Same applies to rum.
Suggest U.S. State Dept. be sounded as to possibility of co-operation and relaxation of situation which precludes our taking action in neutrality zone to prevent French ships carrying food for probable German consumption. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1906/10 to Admty).

K.G. MELDAHL, VOLTAIRE. Your 1131/10 (VOLTAIRE completes refit 11/3) Norwegian K.G. MELDAHL due to leave New York 10/3 for Takoradi with 55 aeroplanes speed 11 knots and has been ordered to call at Trinidad. VOLTAIRE should proceed direct to Trinidad to provide onward escort. Report anticipated date VOLTAIRE will arrive Trinidad. My 0952/8 and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 2045/8 refer. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2252/10 to R.A.3 B.S.).

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Counter-Attacks on U/B's attacking Convoys at Night.

Cancel my 1909/6 and substitute:-
Efforts to destroy U-boats which carry out surface attacks on convoys at night have not up to date proved entirely successful. New methods must be tried out. S.Os. of Groups must take every oppprtunity of discussing problem with their several C.Os. I have lately pointed out necessity of keeping rear of convoy guarded, bearing in mind that efficiency of lookouts in all types of surface craft is proverbially less efficient astern than on forward bearings.

2. S.Os. of escorts should consider:-

(a) advisability of increasing the existing areas of starshell fire.

(b) reducing distance from convoy to which the escort vessels at present proceed after an attack, thereby reducing the risk of the U-boat returning to attack during their absence.

(c) A.S.V. Destroyers on each beam turning 180° and searching area on either quarter of convoy and

(d) advisability of leaving one ship to search close ahead and on each bow of convoy while starshell are being fired.

3. S.O. Escort is in best position to judge direction of attack and must be free to act to best advantage under existing circumstances. Beyond certain broad guiding principles, therefore, orders laid down for the defence of convoys at night must be kept as flexible as possible.

4. Western Approaches Convoy Instructions Section G, Parts IX, X, XI, are being amended accordingly.

(C. in C. W.A. 1727/10 to Capts D., Liverpool Greenock, Londonderry).

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

Attack on S.L. 67 8/3. LAHORE. HARMODIUS. TIELBANK. HINDPOOL. (ZARDANA) sunk.	My 1540Z/8 to V.A.C.N.A., at about 0240/8, after moonset FORESTER heard explosions and proceeded to Port bow of convoy then in position 20°51' N. 20° 32' W. She sighted submarine on surface, illuminated, opened fire, and dropped two patterns over position where submarine submerged. She considers patterns were close to submarine Between 0251 and 0256 MALAYA saw three white rockets from Port wing of convoy. At 0259 convoy altered 40° to starboard by emergency turn. At 0303 one ship on fire seen by MALAYA on port quarter. At 0321 s.s. LAHORE made distress message repeated by shore station. At 0435 MALAYA repeated and at 0518 passed to Portishead on H.F. At 0527 FAULKNOR reported both destroyers searching for survivors. At 1130/8 FAULKNOR and FORESTER rejoined convoy with 316 survivors, reporting HARMODIUS, TIELBANK, HINDPOOL (ZARDANA) LAHORE all sunk. D.8 considers from survivors' statements of times struck that submarine fired at each ship separately. I consider it more probable that one spread salvo was fired, ships sunk were in positions 11, 12, 14, 21, 43, Convoy not subsequently attacked. (MALAYA 1031/10).
HUNTINGDON. (torpedoed 24/2)	Ref. Trade Division memo 4/9/1939 (1) British ship HUNTINGDON (2) Federal Steam Navigation Co. (3) 0235 G.M.T/24/2, 58.25 N. 20.23 W. (4) and (5) not sighted (6) submerged (7) ship sunk (8) none (9) unknown (10) torpedo (11) full set of C.B's and papers dumped. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1215/10 to Admty).
TERJE VIKEN. (torpedoed 7/3)	Arrived HURRICANE with 100 survivors from TERJE VIKEN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1320/10).
DELILIAN ATHELBEACH (torpedoed 7/3).	Clyde Arrivals. CAMELILA escorting DELILIAN and with 36 survivors from ATHELBEACH. Names. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1729/10, 2205/10).

/U.70.....

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd).

U.70
(sunk 7/3)

F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1901/9. The S/M referred to is undoubtedly the U.70 subsequently sunk by ARBUTUS. ARBUTUS' report corroborates MYDRECHT'S claim to have rammed the U/B near Conning Tower which caused superficial damage to the Bridge Screen and Conning Tower casing. There is however no evidence to support the claim to 2 direct hits by gunfire. The U/B came to the surface some time after ramming but dived again and was hunted for over 2 hours and finally sunk by ARBUTUS. (C. in C. W.A. 1336/10 to Admty).
My 1336/10. Convey my congratulations to Master of MIJDRECHT on her gallant action and fine display of seamanship in ramming U70 although herself torpedoed. This undoubtedly contributed to the final destruction of the U/B by ARBUTUS.
(C. in C. W.A. 1341/10)

Submarines Reported.

2109/9. D/F Bearings at 2109/9 indicate U-Boat may still be in the vicinity of convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 0138/10 to MALAYA).

2130/8. Large submarine ? sighted on surface steering S. off Ponta Delgada, Azores, 2130/8. A.O. (N.A. Lisbon 1832/10) (F.O.C.N.A 2214/10 to N.A. Stn).

1607 58° - 60° N. W. of 15° W. Very indefinite (D.S. 553).

2012 48° - 49° N. 17° - 20° W. Very indefinite (D.S. 553).

1748 48½° - 49½° N., 9° - 10° W. Very indefinite (D.S. 553).

Estimated U/B Dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1418/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

The U.S.A. "Lease and Lend" Bill became law this evening.

Unless identified as enemy, a submarine in company wtth French merchant ships is to be treated as an escorted French submarine.

Home Commands.

Western Channel Patrol.

KELLY, KASHMIR, KIPLING and KELVIN patrolled last night between the Eddystone and Scilly Is.

E/Boat attack on Convoy.

E/Boats attacked convoy F.S.32 off Yarmouth tonight and torpedoed and sank S.S. TREVETHOE.

Watch on HIPPER Cruiser.

Air patrol reported various light forces near Brest this morning. Air R/C at 1230 showed a HIPPER Class Cruiser exercising in Douarnenez Bay.

Captain D.5. (KELLY) was ordered to patrol with KIPLING, KASHMIR and KELVIN to intercept her if she sails tonight. L.27 was also ordered to patrol, and frequent air patrols were arranged.

A/A defence of Scapa.

A.C.O.S. has made serious representations as to the effect on the A.A. defence of the Fleet at Scapa, of the proposed removal by the Army of 8 3.7" mobile guns, at a time when renewed air attacks are to be expected. (See 12/3).

/U/Boat

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. (Contd.)

U/Boat Campaign.

It was reported today that S.S. MARSLEW was torpedoed and sunk on 23/2 in the N.W.Approaches in 59° 18'N., 21° 30'W., and that the Icelandic trawler FRODI was attacked, near the Vestman Islands (Iceland), apparently last night and apparently unsuccessfully.

British Air Activity.

Measures are being taken to ensure more efficient air protection of homeward bound merchant ships independently routed through the Minches.

Convoy escorts were provided last night in the N.W. Approaches and for all convoys in the N.W.Approaches to-day.

Bomber Command aircraft attacked Boulogne, St. Nazaire and Ostend last night. Blenheims of Coastal Command attacked Cherbourg and Brest last night.

Enemy Air Activity.

Severe Air Attacks on Portsmouth.

WITHERINGTON was hit and beached, RIVELLO was sunk, TYNEDALE and 2 M/S Trawlers were damaged, 5 other ships were slightly damaged, DOLPHIN floating dock was sunk, and considerably damage was caused to the Naval Dockyard and establishments, at Portsmouth in air attack from 2004/10 to 0200/11. Service casualties were 87 killed, 224 seriously and 168 slightly wounded.

/BARON ELGIN

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

BARON ELGIN reported being attacked this afternoon N.W. of the Farne Is. There is no report of damage.

Convoy E.N.84 was attacked this evening S.E. of Aberdeen. No damage occurred.

Mining.

Mining of Thames Estuary.	Extensive Mining by enemy aircraft last night took place in the Thames Estuary. Heavy explosions were heard, about 28 suspected mines were seen to drop, many premature explosions took place. The minelaying aircraft were heavily engaged by all ships from south-end to Edinburgh Channels. One enemy aircraft was destroyed by HOLDERNESS by a direct hit from one of her 4" guns.
Mining in Milford Haven.	Reports indicate that about 45 parachute mines were dropped in Milford Haven today, mostly in the convoy anchorage in the centre of the Haven. Ships for convoy are being swept or towed out today but the port(which was closed yesterday evening) will not be opened for general traffic until sweeping has been carried out tomorrow.
Dungeness to Beachy Head sweep.	Several mines were destroyed by the special sweep carried out between Dungeness and Beachy Head.

An area in the Firth of Forth was closed this evening after a mine was today reported to have been dropped yesterday afternoon.

Tyne, Blyth and Sunderland were reopened this afternoon after several mines had been detonated.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Suez Canal.	Enemy aircraft last night dropped 8 mines in three separate areas of the Suez Canal, of which 3 exploded.
Italian transport sunk.	A message was received today that on 22/2 URSULA torpedoed an escorted armed transport off the SICILIA Class, believed to be carrying troops, off Tripoli. The ship was last seen with decks awash, sinking.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Docking of NELSON.

My 1336/8, I intend to defer docking NELSON at any rate until after return of RODNEY about 25/3. (C. in C. H.F. 2001/11.)

Iceland. Proposed further facilities at ports.

Re acute congestion of inner harbour at Reykjavik. Ships are kept waiting for berths for several days. Repair facilities only designed to maintain local, trawler, fleet fully extended in maintaining ships for Army Services in addition. No coaling facilities available for ships which cannot enter. Suggest early provision of depot ship Hvalfjord, repair facilities to deal with A.M.Cs., escort merchant vessels. Small collier or hulk for Hvalfjord. Another water-boat 100 tons for ships at Reykjavik. (F.O.Iceland 1931/11.)

Defence of U.K.

Scapa. Removal of A/A Guns.

Am informed by O.S.D.E.F., eight 3.7 mobile guns to be moved from Scapa to Clyde.
2. This will seriously impair the scale of A/A. Armament which I consider necessary for the defence of the Fleet and at a time when renewed attacks are to be expected. Request I may be informed whether T.L.have concurred, and that steps may be taken to stop proposed move if possible. (A.C.O.S. 2216/11 to Adty.)

Transfers of A/A Guns.

O.5445/11. Following moves of Guns will take place immediately, to Clyde, Mersey, Bristol, and Swansea. (Antacor, London 1635/11, 1955/11.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

SUNFISH.	My 1729/10. Proceed to Blyth. Following movements of STURGEON and F.N.26, may affect you. (S.6. 0933/11 to SUNFISH.)
Harwich. M/L's sheltering.	Arrived M.L's 105, 106 108, and 110 at 0934. Sheltering. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0949/11.)
L.27.	You have been reported by enemy aircraft. (F.O.S. 1154/11, to L.27.)
REVENGE.	C. in C. Portsmouth's 1303/10. C. in C. Portsmouth to sail REVENGE for Clyde p.m./14th, providing A/A escort of two HUNTS for the whole passage. 2. C. in C. Plymouth to provide four of the 5th D.F. as A/S escort from Portsmouth to the Clyde as arranged with C. in C. Portsmouth. (A.C.N.S.H. 1302/11.)
TORBAY.	Steer 050° and dive by day after passing 25° W., Proceed subsequently to Holy Loch. C. in C. W.A. to signal route and arrange escort. (F.O.S. 1604/11 to TORBAY.)
URGE.	You may meet STURGEON travelling in Gap A. (S.9. 1645/11, to URGE.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

WORCESTER Engagement with E-Boats off Southwold on 10/3.

Following received from D.16 begins:- Three E-boats were sighted in close formation by WORCESTER who was zig zagging 5 miles ahead of convoy at 25 knots in 52° 19' N.2° E., at 0107. All engaged 2 simultaneously believed one hit by Pom Pom but speed apparently not reduced. Five flashes thought to be torpedo impulse charges were seen and four subsequent explosions were heard and felt but no tracks seen. E-boats were chased in North Easterly direction for 12 minutes contact being held by A.S.V. and starshell.
It is considered that A.S.V. fitted destroyer can give best protection by very broad zig zagging ahead of convoy at high speed thus flushing E-boats who may use up their torpedoes on destroyer.
This is second occasion consecutively in two nights at sea in which initial high speed and unexpected course have placed E-boats at a disadvantage. 1201/10. Ends.
(C. in C. Nore 0810/11.)

Interception of HIPPER Cruiser.

Proceed with KASHMIR, KELVIN, KIPLING to pass through 049° 40' N., 007° W., at 1800/11. Orders follow. (C. in C. Plymouth 1220/11. to D.5.). Information of enemy (iii) Own forces. (iv) Weather forecast. (v) Object: to intercept and attack HIPPER cruiser if she sails tonight. (vi)Execution: proceed westwards and thence to 048° N., 006° 30' W., by 2200/11 and patrol in this vicinity. If no contact by 0100/12 proceed Plymouth reporting p.c. and at 0600/12.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1311/11, to Capt. D.5.)
My 1311. HIPPER Cruiser and 3 destroyers proceeding into Douarnenez Bay at 1420/11. 4 E boats in 48° 21' N., 5° 24' W. course 168° at 1330/11 (ii) Para 3. Hudson patrol from 48° 30' N., 006° 10' W., to 047° 20' N., 005° W., and will only drop flares if target cannot be otherwise identified.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1638/11, to Capt. D.5.)

/1. Enemy.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Interception of HIPPER Cruiser. Contd.	Information. 1. Enemy. 2. Own forces. 7. Object. To attack and report HIPPER cruiser if she proceeds southwards from Brest. 8. Execution. Proceed forthwith from Dartmouth to establish a patrol to Southward of a line joining positions 48° N., 6° 1' W., and 47° N., 4° W. Route through 49° N., 5° W., and at least 30 miles off Ushant and Chaussee de Sein. Passage to be made at best speed diving by day and on surface by night at C.O.'s discretion. 9. Leave patrol as requisite to R/V in 110° Start Point 6' at 0800/19. (C. in C. Plymouth 1838/11, to L. 27.) Informing D.5 of movements of L.27. (C. in C. Plymouth 1852/11, to Capt.D.5.)
Convoy F.S.32. E. Boats off Yarmouth.	Slight indication of E Boats near Yarmouth at 2148. (C. in C. Nore 2221/11 to Capt. D.16.)
TREVETHOE (British, 5257 Tons.) torpedoed.	TREVETHOE torpedoed in 52° 47' N., 1° 55'E., (S.O. 4th Detached Sqdn., 2346/11.).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.	Patrols ordered for today. BERT - STAB - SLEEVE - STAND - HORNLI - SA 3- IP OP- (C. in C. Rosyth 1206/11.) My 1206/11. Patrols SLEEVE STAND and IP-OP cancelled owing to weather. Weather permitting patrols BERT and STAND will be flown at first light or as soon as cloud cover permits 12/3. (C. in C. Rosyth 1554/11.)
Escort.	Expect escort by 18 Group Sunderland Aircraft from 1900 till 0100/12th.(C. in C. Rosyth 1648/11, to ARABIS,SARDONYX, etc.)

/Rotterdam.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Rotterdam.	Day 11th March. 2 Blenheims successfully attacked the oil storage at Rotterdam. A direct hit was observed on the North side of Dock 7 at Rotterdam. (H.Q.B.C. 2330/11.).

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth. Air-Raid. WITHERINGTON VICTORY SHERWOOD TYNDALE MARSHAL SOULT TOKIO II. YASHIMA. CAPE SPARTEL OUR BAIRNS CHASSEUR 43 damaged. RIVELLO and Floating Dock, sunk.	Air Raid 2004 to 0200. Very large number of incendiaries and H.E. Following damage. WITHERINGTON hit and beached off north corner. Trawler RIVELLO sunk. Power Station hit by H.E. and burnt out. Numbers 1 and 3 electrical shops badly damaged by fire. No. 1 ship shop and west end of factory damaged by fire. VICTORY ship slightly damaged by small bomb under fore foot. Coppersmith shop slightly damaged. Number of small fires in stores and Offices. A number of U X B's. DOLPHIN floating dock sunk. Minor damage in Fort. Details of other damage. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0509/11, 1259/11, 1845/11.). Total casualties for last nights raid in Services, Portsmouth, Gosport and areas of Hants, 87 killed, 224 seriously injured, 168 slightly injured. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1831/11.)
Milford Haven bombed.	Enemy aircraft dropped one H.E. on Boom Defence Depot damaging roof of main boom shed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1038/11.)
BARON ELGIN.	(British, 3942 Tons). Attacked by aircraft off 21.A. Buoy. (Cullercoats 1345/11.)

/Convoy.....

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

Convoy E.N.84.	Enemy Bombing Convoy PADDLE position 56° 51' N., 2° W., (FOWEY 1940/11.) 2 Bombs no hits. (FOWEY 1944/11.) Enemy bombing Convoy PADDLE Position 56° 55' N., 1° 57' W. (FOWEY 1955/11.). 3 bombs. No hits. (FOWEY 1957/11.)
CATTISTOCK.	Slightly damaged by Near Miss in Thames Estuary during Night 9/10. (D.S.11/3.).
Sheerness.	A delayed-action Bomb dropped by Enemy A/C off Sheerness at 2040/9, caused damage later to one of H.M. Ships. (D.S. 11/3.)

Mining.

Thames. Estuary. Enemy A/C. shot down.	Following received, begins HOLDERNESS's 0130/11. Following five heavy Explosions occurred at times indicated. Parachute mine dropped at 0010 bearing 010°. 4 cables. 1 Ju 88 shot down by direct hit from 4 inch seen to break up and fragments seen falling into sea. 0130 Ends. (C. in C. Nore 0825/11.) One red mine detonated at 1323/11, in position 267 degrees Yantlet North Buoy, 2 cables. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1444/11.) Summary of aircraft activity in Thames Estuary for night of 10th/11th March. Between 2030 and 0130 there was extensive aircraft mining activity chiefly in the region of the Thames Boom, Yantlet Channel and to the south of the Nore Light Vessel. About 28 suspected mines were observed and between 2340 and 0545 eight premature explosions not connected with these were reported. Mines appeared to have a smaller parachute than previously, fell rapidly and caused a splash in some cases estimated at 25 feet high. HOLDERNESS reports having definitely shot down a J.U.88. Planes were heavily engaged by all ships from Southend to Edinburgh Channels. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1643/11, and 1750/11.)

/In view.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Thames Estuary Enemy A/C. shot down.	In view of considerable mine laying having taken place in this area last night. Diving prohibited, till area swept. (C. in C. Nore 2229/11 to F.O.I.C. London.)
Dungeness to Portsmouth. Clearance Sweep.	Details of German mines cut and detonated and sweeps cut. Slow progress and loss in percentage in consequence.(S.O. 1st. M/S. F. 0933/11, 0955/11, 1012/11. My 1012. 4 more floating mines sighted. 2 further sweeps cut, anti sweeping devices strongly suspected in one case only. Due to frequent parting of sweeps Southern 12 cables only of channel ordered in Adty., 1743/10 searched to about 60% from beginning of - 000° 19' W., with occasional increase of width from Southern edge to a total of 16 cables. One further mine cut in position 050° 40' N.,000° 19' W. All Floaters sunk. Swept 5 fathoms.(depth) (S.O. 1st. M/S. F. 1903/11.) S.O. 1st. M.S.F. with available fast minesweepers is to carry out tomorrow a clearance Sweep of the area enclosed by lines joining following positions: (D.M.S. 2003/11.)
Milford Haven.	Reports indicate that about 45 Parachute Mines were dropped in Haven, mostly in Convoy Anchorage in centre of Haven. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1038/11.) My 1038. Ships for convoy are being swept or towed out today. Port will not be opened for general traffic until sweeping has been carried out tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1512/11.)
Operation Z.M.E.23.	Particulars. To be carried out on night of 12/3, or as soon after as practicable. (A.C.N.S. H. 1152/11.)

/Isle de Bas.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11. 3. 1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Isle de Bas. Havre / Barfleur. Boulogne/Dieppe.	Proposed Mining programme. (D.D.O.D. M. 1237/11. See Operations Volume.
Dartmouth Area.	One moored mine seen by M L 153 in position 110° Barry Head 3 miles at 1030 today. Request area may be declared closed until searched. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1255/11.)
Tyne.	Port of Tyne open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1330/11.) Details of mines exploded by S.A. Gear in Tyne. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1818/11, 1819/11.)
Blackwater Light Vessel (Irish Coast.)	Trawler OCEAN SHIELD reports that at 1400/6, when one mile S.E. of Blackwater Light Vessel a plane showing British markings, dropped something making a big splash astern but did not explode. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1331/11.)
Blyth.	Blyth open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1345/11.) At 1120/11, one Mine exploded by S.A.Gear in 134° 4 cables E Pier Light Blyth. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1820/11.)
Sunderland.	Port of Sunderland open. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1650/11.)
River Thames.	Observation minefield in Lower Hope Reach completed and ready for action. (F.O.I.C. London 1745/11.)
Firth of Forth.	SEA VALOUR reports parachute mine dropped in position 2 miles S. 20° E. magnetic from Methil Light at about 1630/10. Area one mile radius from this dangerous to to nevigation. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1757/11.) Area within 6 cables of 56° 09' 06'' N., 02° 58' 31'' W., is closed,due to enemy minelaying.(C. in C. Rosyth 1833/11.)

/HATSUSE.....

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

HATSUSE (Mined 9/3.)	My 1257/10. HATSUSE salved and taken up harbour. (C. in C. Plymouth 1951/11.)
Plymouth M/Sweepers.	Your 1257/10. No LL or SA Sweepers are available from other Commands. The following LL and SA Sweepers, allocated to Swansea, should complete during this month and their arrival will allow of a redistribution of MS. forces in the Plymouth Command. (D.M.S. 2219/11 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Danish Coast.	W.T.I. suggests a movement, probably a convoy, from the Bight to the Maze is taking place now. (D.D.I.C. 1130/11.)
Unknown Vessel on 1/3.	Master Finnish KASTELHOLM reports that he was challenged by vessel in 49° 15' N., 38° 20'W.,by unknown ship at 2330 local 1/3. Master considers vessel was a warship as a searchlight was used for signals. No description of vessel could be obtained.(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1147/11.)
M/V's.	5 small craft. 2 merchant vessels bearing 340°, distance 1 mile, course 040° position 48° 35' N., 5° 14' W.(Training Cd.Spare 1258/11 to 19 Group H.Q.)
4 E-Boats.	Four Enemy W.M. Boats. Bearing 020° distance 1 mile course 168° position 48° 21' N., 5° 24' W., (Training Cd. Spare 1305/11.)

4 Destroyers.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence Contd.

4 Destroyers.	4 Destroyers Bearing 090°, Distance 3 miles, course 070°. My position 48° 4' N., 4° 56' W. (Training Cd. Spare 1312/11.)
Ore Trade.	My 1549/8. In recent German Swedish shipping agreement one condition is that after February Swedish tonnage is to be used in ore trade to largest possible extent. This does not apply to Narvik. A. one.
War Rates.	2. After 13/1 war ocean rates on Swedish shipping proceeding to German North sea ports was 8% against only 3 or 4% in Baltic. A one. (N.A. Stockholm 1521/10.)
HIPPER Cruiser.	Preliminary report of photographic Air R/C. at 1230/11 shows Hipper Class Cruiser in Bay of Douarnenez, exercising with one destroyer. (D.D.I.C. 1705/11.)F.O.C.N.A. 1923/11.)
Rotterdam.	At 1535/11. Blenheim observed 25 barges at Southern end of west side of Docks and one M/V in centre of dock, also two tankers on the west side of dock 6. (H.Q.B.C. 2330/11.)
SEEFRIGGA.	(German) A report (A.1) has been received that this Steamer was unloading at Aalesund on 10/3. (D.S. 11/3.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.3.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Strikes at Glasgow.

Regret to report that 62 apprentices in our establishment absent from work today in sympathy with strike movement in district. This will seriously hamper our production. (Cockburn, Glasgow 1124/11.)

Our apprentices have all ceased work and the disorganisation caused thereby will seriously delay all Government Contracts. (Ajax, Glasgow 1145/11.)

Reference apprentices' strike. The numbers out this evening are 7,135 in engineering and shipbuilding trades: a further number up to 1,000 in Port Glasgow and Greenock area may also strike to-morrow. It is understood that Admiralty are aware that Minister of Labour has appointed an independent Court of Inquiry which commences proceedings to-morrow. Submitted that measures now being taken for settlement may be founded on firm principles. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2321/11.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

VETERAN.	My 1416/10/3 and Captain D Liverpool 1143/3. Sailing postponed owing engine defect. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 0914/11.)
CAPE MELVILLE.	(M/S Trawler). Sailed Tug KROOMAN at 1220 to assist CAPE MELVILLE with sweep foul of propellor. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1238/11.)
BALTARA (Broke down 5/3.)	Position at 1340/11 G.M.T. 049° 46' N., 023° 42' W. Drift estimated 225° .5 knots. BALTARAS condition unchanged. (ST. ELSTAN 1430/11.)
RAMILLIES.	My 1744/9. Chief Constructor confirms ship must dock for repairs. Endeavour being made to arrange this immediately at St. John, N.B. Expect ship will be unserviceable for about a month.(F.O.3. B.S., 1701/11, to Admty.)
KENTON. (Torpedoed by E-Boat 7/3.)	Boarded Steamer KENTON at low water p.m. today. Description. (Salvage Officer, Cromer 1908/11.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

Failure to meet incoming convoys, proposals.

When local escorts fail to meet an incoming convoy, procedure now in operation in my command is not entirely satisfactory in view of restrictions on breaking of W/T silence. Following amendment to W.A.C. I'S Volume 11, sec: D., part III, para., 15, clause 1. is therefore proposed. Although it is appreciated this will increase the chances of the Convoy's position being more accutely disclosed to the enemy. It is considered that this will be more than set off by the advantages of all the escorts being able to find the convoy more quickly.
(C.in C. W.A. 1345/11 to Admty.) Concur.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1357/19).

Sailings from Plymouth "Slave".

To provide more protection for shipping from air attack merchant vessels sailing from Plymouth westward are to sail in groups every three days with one A/S Trawler as escort, beginning p.m./15. LORD STANHOPE is to be detailed as escort on 15/3. She is to leave the group so as to return to Plymouth a.m./17.
Permanent code word allotted to these group sailings is "Slave".
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1806/11).

Sailings from Iceland.

My 1359/16/1. Following information is to be included in ROUTE signal to Admiralty:- (1) Speed of Advance. (2) E.T.A. on Arc 150 miles from Malin Head or 58° 15'N., in Minches. VESCA signals are to include times of departure (G.M.T.) from harbour limits by utilising the numbers from 1 to 24 immediately after name of vessel. Both ROUTE and VESCA signals are to be repeated to C.in C. W.A.
(D.T.D. 1824/11 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

General.

Independent ships, Minches. To ensure more efficient air protection of homeward bound merchant ships independently routed through the Minches, Masters are to be instructed that if they will be unable to cross parallel of 58° 15'N., either within three hours of the correct time or on the correct day they are to report by V/S to Butt of Lewis Signal Station. Signal Station is to report time of passing to C.in C. W.A.
(D.T.D. 1856 /11 to A.I.G. 67, C.in C. Plymouth, A.I.G. 48).

Coastal Convoys.

E.N.83. Prospective sailings. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1603/11). Arrived 0430/11 less ESMOND. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe. 0520/11).

F.N.27. Arrived 0100/11. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0532/11). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Dundee 1145/11).

F.S.32. Patrol O, WORCESTER and WHITSHED with. (C.in C. Nore, 0800/11, 1017/11).
1 absentee. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0943/11).
Patrol O to R/V. (C.in C. Nore, 1002/11).
Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1759/11).

F.N.29. Postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Rosyth, 0837/11, C.in C. Nore, 1017/11).
To sail 0930/12, escorts SOUTHDOWN, FRANKLIN. (C.in C. Nore, 1450/11).

F.N.28. 1 Absentee. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0944/11).
Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 0942/11, amended 1221/11). Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1703/11).

"Range". Arrived less 1. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 0954/11).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

E.N.86.	ALYNBANK as A/A escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1005/11).
F.S.31.	Position, 2 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1013/11). Arrived all ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1519/11).
W.N.96.	Arrived 0930/11. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1018/11).
E.N.85.	H.34 to join. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1031/11).
F.S.33.T.	Additional slow convoy, leaves 2000/11. ships for Tyne. Escort WALLACE. Cide "Merit". (C.in C. Rosyth, 1030/11). VANSITTART to be additional escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1510/11). Sailed 36 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2045/11).
6. M/Vs.	E.T.D. Needles. (1830, E.T.A. Dartmouth 0745/12. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1037/11).
F.S.29A.	2 ships for London arrived Harwich. (N.C.S.O. Harwich, 1125/11). Arrived all ships except 2 at Harwich. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1456/11).
Channel.	W. Channel night report. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1310/11).
F.N.30. (fast).	To sail 0730/12. escorts WESTMINSTER QUORN. (C.in C. Nore, 1450/11).
F.S.33.	Sailed 1500. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1505/11). 4 ships from Humber, (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1744/11.) List. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1754/11).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

W.N.95.	Non-arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1720/11).
W.N.97.(O).	Sailed 1630/11, escorts, 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1745/11).
E.N.84.	1100/11, escorts 18 ships, 12 with kites. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1425/11). List (1440/11). 9 ships and trawler SIESTA did not sail from Methil. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1800/11). MARIGOLD to meet as additional escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1605/11 N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2000/11).
Iceland.	7 ships leaving Fleetwood, a.m./12. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1815/11).
E.N.85.) W.N.98.)	GLEANER as additional A/A escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1823/11).
W.N.97.	EMPIRE STEELHEAD to join. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1913/11).
"Scent".	Sailing 1915/12, 7 ships, escorts, E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 2148/11).
"Ounce".	Sailed 2230/11, escort 2 M/L's. E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 2235/11).

Ocean Convoys.

S.C.23.	1. arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0130/11). 2 arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0145/11). 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0220/11). 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0810/11.) 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1720/11).

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)	
H.G.54B.	0745/11 unescorted, 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0750/11) List. (0830/11). 4 hours late at R/V. (C.in C. W.A. 1232/11 to LEEDS UNITED).
O.B.296.	0135/11 unescorted. 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0140/11. Name and E.T.A. (0930/11). BIFRA returned defect. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1046/11). VICEROY left for. (Capt: D. Londonderry, 0945/11)
H.X.110.	6 arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0810/11). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1438/11).
O.B.M. 297.	1900/11, YORK CITY, 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 0845/11). Sailed 2005/11, YORK CITY, 4 ships (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 2340/11). List. (2345/11).
S.L.66.) S.L.S.66.)	Final destinations. (D.T.D. 1031/11, 1032/11, 1033/11).
O.B.O. 296.	0430/11, unescorted, 3 ships. (N.C.S.O.Oban, 0630/11).
O.B.C. 296.	List. (4 ships). 2 others did not sail. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0914/11).
H.G.54.	Arrivals, 7 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1050/11). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1725/11).
S.L.65.	1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1101/11).
O.G.55.	Instructions to escorts. (C.in C. W.A. 1217/11). Sailing telegram (38 ships including 7 for Turkey). (C.in C. W.A. 1841/11 amended 0902/12).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

H.G.54B. 0745/11 unescorted, 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0750/11) List. (0830/11). 4 hours late at R/V. (C.in C. W.A. 1232/11 to LEEDS UNITED).

O.B.296. 0135/11 unescorted. 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0140/11. Name and E.T.A. (0930/11). BIFRA returned defect. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1046/11). VICEROY left for. (Capt: D. Londonderry, 0945/11)

H.X.110. 6 arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0810/11). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1438/11).

O.B.M. 297. 1900/11, YORK CITY, 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 0845/11). Sailed 2005/11, YORK CITY, 4 ships (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 2340/11). List. (2345/11).

S.L.66.) S.L.S.66.) Final destinations. (D.T.D. 1031/11, 1032/11, 1033/11).

O.B.O. 296. 0430/11, unescorted, 3 ships. (N.C.S.O.Oban, 0630/11).

O.B.C. 296. List. (4 ships). 2 others did not sail. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0914/11).

H.G.54. Arrivals, 7 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1050/11). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1725/11).

S.L.65. 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1101/11).

O.G.55. Instructions to escorts. (C.in C. W.A. 1217/11). Sailing telegram (38 ships including 7 for Turkey). (C.in C. W.A. 1841/11 amended 0902/12).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X.114. Sailing telegram. 41 ships. (S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1526/11).

H.X.111B. 2000/11 unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1500/11). Sailed 2030/11. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 2054/11). E.T.A. (2130/11).

H.X.112. 1 Sailing telegram as amended Admty. (D.T.D. 1823/11).

S.C.24. Sailing telegram as amended Admty. (D.T.D. 1828/11).

H.G.56. Destinations. (D.T.D. 1902/11).

H.G.58. EGRET to bring back. Orders to be issued by F.O.C.N.A. (C.in C. W.A. 1941/11).

Military Convoys.

ANDES. ANDES in Clyde is required to embark at Liverpool on 19/3.

5. F.O.I.C. Belfast to report earliest possible date vessel can arrive Liverpool (D.S.T. 0505/11).

BRITANNIA, THEMISTOCLES, CITY OF HONG KONG. Admiralty 1904/6 and 0047/8. HILARY is to sail with Clyde portion for Western Patrol area S. one. (C.in C. W.A. 1230/11).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Submarines with French Motor Vessels.

Unless identified as enemy, a submarine in company with French Merchant ships is to be treated as an escorted French Submarine for the purpose of Admiralty 2033/22/2/40, 1509/2/10/40, and 2300/14/9/40.
(Head of M., 1359/11 "A" Message home and abroad).

North Atlantic.

French S.S. BANGKOK.

Reported to have arrived at Dakar 3/3 and will proceed to Marseilles. Cargo includes 3000 tons of rubber which is a serious German deficiency. If ship is met with and is not escorted she should be sent in.
(Head of M. 0041/11 to F.O.C.N.A., REPULSE, D.8.)
Ship is to be sent in if encountered and providing she is not escorted.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0953/11 to N.A.Station).

French ships, passing Gibraltar.

Passed 10/3 westward. REMOIS in ballast, JANINE, French OUED-FES, MONTAIGNE, DIVATTE, all French.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0811/11 to Admty).

REPULSE and FURIOUS.

My 2032/10. Request you will signal REPULSE onward routeing instructions from position 018° 00'N., 020° 00'W.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1016/11 to C.in C. S.A.)

Enemy Unit.

Ref: Simonstown bearing 312/3 at 0417/11 G.M.T. on 5995 kc/s. Bearings from Georgetown 054/2 and from Baldock 230/1 give position of enemy unit within 300 miles of 23° N., 34° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1026/11).
Informing N.A.Station.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1240/11).

/My 1026/11.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Enemy Unit. (Contd.)	My 1026/11. Further bearings. Halifax 137/2. Ascension 312/2. Suggest more likely position within 200 miles of 18° N., 40° W. (D.D.I.C. 1331/11). D/F indications on 10/3 of an enemy surface unit in N.Atlantic between the Azores and Newfoundland. (D.D.I.C. 1608/11 to C.in C's). (F.O.C.N.A. 1753/11 to N.A.Station).
VERBENA GENTAIN.	Your 1232/7. VERBENA is fitted M/S and is therefore required in U.K. GENTAIN will be relieved when suitable ship is available. (C.in C. W.A. 1255/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)
IDA GIANNA M. Italian.	Telegram 36. Italian Steamer IDA is now moored alongside Italian Tanker GIANNA M. Italian Steamers have taken quantity of stores and water. All Italian Steamers have painted hulls and funnels black, upper works dark grey, Italian colours have been painted on hatchways. (Consul, Las Palmes, 1720/11 to Admty).
RUDOLF ALBRECHT. 1 Italian ship. Night Atmospherics.	Information from ships boarded RUDOLF ALBRECHT and other ships still in port. 1 Italian ship in Rio Del Oro, 7/3. Night atmospheric impossible. Request repetition of Western Patrol Messages in daylight. (MARSDALE, 1800/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Aircraft salved, Teneriffe.	Your 1006/10. rescue by Spanish S.S. CABO IRANNA ESPERANZA. Crew of three with aircraft arrived 1500/11. Authorities doubtful of allowing free departure, have referred to Madrid. Aeroplane being landed. Can arrange repatriation of men by a British ship but master declines to take aeroplane owing to size. (Consul, Teneriffe, 1900/11 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Submarine O.21.	Position of submarines at 1200/12, and movements O.21 with O.G.54. (F.O.C.N.A., 2150/11).

South Atlantic.

ALGORAB.	Overdue shipping, my 0958/8, ALGORAB arrived at Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0940B/11).
DUNKELD.	Overdue shipping DUNKELD due Capetown 7/3 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1006B/11).
Neutral Submarines.	Intend issuing instructions in accordance with (5) of my 1421/N/19/2/41. (Instruction on dealing with neutral submarines). (C.in C. S.A. 1052/11 to Admty).
Bombey A/C Takoradi.	Following received from C.in C. S.A. T.O.O. 1937/10, 0057/10/1. (Protection of Takoradi from attack from seaward) Admiralty replied that it had been approved that up to 3 Blenheim bombers would be retained at Takoradi for offensive operations against enemy forces from seaward. Large German warships may be within reach Africa during next few days, consider these aircraft should be kept at readiness. (Ends). Action being taken to comply. (Takoradi, 1147/11 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Operation "Pageant".

Following for O.C. "Pageant" from Air Ministry. (Instructions re landing Takoradi). 1946/10.
(D.N.A.D. 1154/11 to FURIOUS).

Independent shipping, Diversion.

My 1905/2/2. Both routes given to ships must be signalled to Admty.
My 1818/27/3. Time and date of crossing 51° N., are also required. Telegraph urgently alternative routes and date of crossing for EMPIRE SONG, ROCHESTER CASTLE, DOMINION MONARCH, ALMKERK.
Your 0901/7 No.8 indicate letter corresponding to position 55° 27'N., 7° 00'W.
(D.T.D. 1318/11 to C.in C. S.A.)

Action towards Submarines.

Your 1421/19. A. Approved. See my 1359/11. B. and C. not approved. Considered essential to preserve complete liberty of action against unescorted submarines outside territorial waters. Ref: A.T. 2033/28/8/40. No actual agreement was reached with the French but they have usually notified movements of their submarines in Straits of Gibraltar though not elsewhere. A fresh note has now been sent reminding them of the need for notification.
(Head of M., 1400/11, to C.in C. S.A.)

ANGLO AFRICAN.

Overdue shipping my 0958/10 ANGLO AFRICAN arrived Cape Town.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1612/11).

NORDERNEY.

My 1738Z/8 German ship NORDERNEY has now commenced loading.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1842Z/11 to Admty).

S.L.68.

Owing to change of routes and postponement of sailing, Commodore has been instructed to R/V with local escort at 0900 G.M.T. on 3/4 unless otherwise ordered by Admiralty. This allows for 6 knots fixed, and could possibly be shortened by 24 hours if weather is favourable.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 2005/11 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

REPULSE FURIOUS.	F.O.C.N.A's 1016/11. From 018° 00'N., 020° 00' W., pass through position 011° 40'N., 018° 25'W. thence to Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 2031N/11 to REPULSE FURIOUS).
QUEEN OF BERMUDA.	To leave Falklands after arrival of FITZROY with mails and rejoin whaling fleet. Probably required to escort SVEND-FOYN and SOUTHERN EXPRESS either to Capetown or Freetown when these ships have completed fishing. (C.in C. S.A. 2147/N/11 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

Mediterranean.

ILLUSTRIOUS.	To appreciate considerations involved in passage of ILLUSTRIOUS to her refitting port, information requested as to present capabilities in following respects. (D.O.D.(F) 0109/11 to C.in C. Med.) Reply(1403/12).
TETRARCH URSULA.	Your 0919/10. Request TETRARCH be sailed Area B. Convoys using following routes. Expect to sail URSULA 15/3 for Sicilian Channel Area. (Cdr. S.l. 1045/11 to Capt: S.l.)
ELIZABETH HENDRIK FISSER.	German 5145 tons. Agents at Trieste reported to owners in Emden on 5/3 that ship required docking and fumigating "first". Equipment and stores were obtainable and dock available. (D.S. 553, 11/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

UTMOST UNIQUE.	UTMOST passes through 036° 15' 013° 45' and 180° Filfola Island 5 miles. UNIQUE passes 035° 33' 014° 10' both to arrive at Marsamxett 0700B/12. (Cdr. S.I., 1102/11).
EXMOUTH, Red Cross supplies.	Sailing of EXMOUTH postponed until Monday 17/3. Due to arrive Marseilles about 31/3. (Air Ministry 1245/11 to A.O. C.in C. M.E.)
French Submarines.	Your 1821/15, confirmed with the addition of (a) A.T. 2300/14/9/40 extending the instructions to aircraft and (b) unless definitely identified as enemy, a submarine in company with French Merchant ships is to be treated as an escorted French Submarine for the purpose of Admty. 2033/28/8/40, 1509/ 8/10/40, and 2300/14/9/40. 2. No actual agreement was reached with the French but they have usually notified the movements of their submarine in the Straits of Gibraltar though not elsewhere. A fresh note has now been sent reminding them of the need for notification and for submarines proceedin escorted on the surface. (Head of M. 1335/11 to C.in C. Med.)
Malta Air Raid 10/3, damage to R.A.F. and Dockyard.	Combined Services report Malta up to 1600 hours 11/3. All tines G.M.T. 2045 to 2310 approx. 20 enemy aircraft consisting of JU.87's Ju.88's HE.111's and DO.215's attacked the Island. The Junkers carried out shallow dive bombing on the Dockyard and the HE.111's and DO.215's bombed Luqa aerodrome and other areas from average height of 10,000 feet. Damage R.A.F. approximatel 12 bombs, dope stores destroyed by fire.

/Side

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta Air Raid, 10/3, damage to R.A.F. and Dockyard. (Contd.)

Side of hangar blown in. Repairable damage to Glenn Martin. U/S 1 to 2 weeks. Sick quarters damaged. Army nil. Navy. Hits on No.1 Generating Station and damage to other Dockyard buildings. (see 2143/11).

11/3. 0007 hours 1 enemy aircraft dropped bombs in sea N.E. of Island without crossing coast. Shortly afterwards 2 enemy aircraft repeated identical performance. 0823 to 0855 5 formations approached Island without crossing coast.

1017 to 1040 1 HE.111 flew over Island at 22,000 feet. Subsequently further 6 enemy aircraft approached. Enemy aircraft did not cross coast. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1600/11).

A.N.19.

Present position Section (ii) 1500/11. (18 ships). All for Piraeus. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1609/11).

Tripoli UPRIGHT.

Aircraft reconnaissance 10/3 (details) (Cdr. S.1. 1631/11 to UPRIGHT.)

MARIANNA.

Arrival 10/3 Italian steamer MARIANNIA to load scrap iron to Genoa. (Cartegena, 1735/11).

Tripoli enemy convoy.

Operational Summary 274 up to 1200 hours 11/3.
Day 10/3 Blenheim reconnaissance reported 17 ships between 6000 and 13000 tons in Tripoli. Convoy of 10 Merchant ships escorted by torpedo boats approaching harbour.

Air Raid Suez. FOUADIEH bombed. Canal mined.

(2) Egypt. Day 10/3. During afternoon enemy aircraft reconnoitred Port Said and reported to have dropped bombs near Suez. S.S. FOUADIEH reported bombed by three aircraft about 15 miles south east of Larnaca, Cyprus.

/Night 10/11

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Night 10/11, enemy aircraft reported as 4 or 5 dropped 8 mines in 3 separate areas of Suez Canal of which 3 exploded.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1740/11).

A.S.18. A.S.18. Convoy telegram. 7 ships. 1630/11.
(N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1800/11).

Malta Raid, damage. Night 10/11 raid by about 20 aircraft. Bombs dropped on dockyard, aerodrome and elsewhere. Severe damage to dockyard generating station now completely out of action and damage to other buildings will seriously affect production. Only one machine in new underground generating station now working.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 2134/11 to C.in C. Med.)

East Indies.

Perim Patrol. Correct my 1202/8 para.2. for CITY OF DURBAN read CAPE SABLE.
(C.in C. E.I. 0406Z/11, 0450Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

German Prisoners. German prisoners of war from ships sunk by CANBERRA.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0424/11, 0613/11).

CAPETOWN. Intend CAPETOWN to dock at Bombay to change propeller on her return from escorting U.S.9½ about 23/3.
(C.in C. E.I. 0630Z/11 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Convoy S.U.2.	My 1200/7. Ships with personnel for Mombasa and Durban will continue as a convoy after passing Aden. Remainder to be dispersed in Gulf of Aden. GLASGOW will escort Mombasa and Durban portion from vicinity of Aden to vicinity of Mombasa. Ocean route. (C.in C. E.I. 0658Z/11 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal etc.)
ILLUSTRIOUS.	C.in C. Med. 1128/10. Concur in ILLUSTRIOUS proceeding unescorted to Port Sudan. S.N.O. Red Sea to arrange onward escort to Aden as soon as possible. (C.in C. E.I. 0700Z/11 to C.in C. Med.)
Possible attacks on U/S Convoys.	Your 1008/7 and 1500/9. If "K" class are still here air defence will be limited unless cruiser with high angle armament is provided. (S.N.O. Red Sea 0706Z/11, to C.in C.E.I.)
KETTY BROVIG.	Re Norwegian and Chinese personnel. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0714Z/11, 0721/11).
Norwegian Officers taken from KETTY BROVIG.	My 0714/11 para.(1) Names. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0721/11).
Raider.	My 1052/10 (Description of raider, ATLANTIS TAMESIS) result of further interrogation gives cruiser stern, which therefore confirms conclusion in para.(ii) of signal quoted. (C.in C. E.I. 1220Z/11).
E.Africa Coast Patrol.	Your 1509/6. Allocations and remaning of 4 Whalers (list). East African Patrol consists of following 8 ships of which Aranci Bay Whalers and NFOVU can be used either as Minesweepers or for patrol duties. (Names). (C.in C. E.I. 12563/11 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

B.F.18½. Convoy sailing telegram 0430Z/12.
(5 ships, 4 for Aden, 1 for Durban.)
(N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 1520/11 to Admty).

B.S.19. 1500 G.M.T./11. (12 ships for Aden, Abadan, Colombo, etc.).
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1711/11 to Admty etc.)

COBURG
KETTY
BROVIG. Your 1738/10. CANBERRA not AUSTRALIA was in company with LEANDER. COBURG left Massawa 21/2 and she and KETTY BROVIG were sunk on 4/3.
(C.in C. E.I. 1820Z/11 to Admty).

HONG SIANG. Have you any news?
(D.T.D. 1837/11 to N.C.S.O. Aden).

China.

EMPRESS OF JAPAN,
AQUITANIA,
DANAE. Singapore arrivals 11/3. Transport EMPRESS OF JAPAN, ACQUITANIA. Departure DANAE for East Coast of Malaya.
(S.O.(I) Singapore, 1027/11).

CARIGNANO.
(Italian) Arrived Kobe 10/3, with 5000 tons outgoing cargo on board.
(Capt: O.S. Singapore, 1432Z/11).

MOST SECRET.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

PRINCE DAVID. — Your 1948/10. Vessel mentioned in your 1247/10 (Given a "hush" distribution) will enter area at daylight 17/3 and leave not later than p.m./18. PRINCE DAVID expected to enter area p.m./11 and leave p.m./15. Intend to adhere to this programme, unless otherwise ordered. (0952/11).

Japanese ASAKA. — Your 1257/8 JWND at 1832 G.M.T./10 bearing 072/1 from Hartlen Point. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1157/11 to C.in C. S.A.)

Transport of R.C.A.F. personnel. — Your 1256/6. Given "Hush" Markings.) Hoped that R.C.A.F. will reconsider their attitude observing that:- (a) Canadian Covt., permit small numbers of troops to cross Atlantic in unescorted liners. (b) Number of R.C.A.F. in any one A.M.C. is likely to be small. (c) Object of scheme is to obtain a steady flow of personnel and save shipping and escorts. (d) An escorted convoy would still be liable to surface, submarine and air attacks. (e) Risk is not considered great as up to date only one A.M.C. on convoy duty has been engaged an sunk by enemy surface raider since the war began and convoys are now escorted by units additional to A.M.Cs. (D.O.D.(H) 1603/11 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

H.X.114, S.C.25, escorts. — Admty. 1946/10 and 1041/11. MALOJA escorting H.X.114 should R/V with WORCESTERSHIRE and B.H.X.114 in (positior at 1200 G.M.T./14 (route). S.C.25 escorted by LACONIA and THUNDERBOLT (route). RODNEY is to join H.X.114 as convenient (date). (F.O.3.B.S. 1744/11 to Admty, RODNEY).

Re German Merchant Seamen. ex CHRISTOPHER VAN DORNUM. — (C.G.S. Ottawa 1527/11 to W.O.) Received from the War Office at 1550/13.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

DUNAFF HEAD. (torpedoed 7/3).	In convoy O.B.293, now reported to have sunk. (D.S.553).
MARSLEW (torpedoed 23/2).	British 4542 tons. Your 1320/2/4/40. (a) British ship MARSLEW (b) 2245/23/2. 059° 18'N., 021° 30'W. (c) Sank with ship. (d) Ditto. (e) No, (f) ship having broken in 2, sank quickly. (g) Chief Officer. (h) Ship was torpedoed in boiler room rank immediately in deep water. (PHILADELPHIA 0930/11 to Admty). Was bound from Liverpool for Montevideo, in O.B.288 (D.S.554). PHILADELPHIA reports Br. EMPIRE CHEETAH has on board 23 survivors from ship HARSLEW sunk by enemy action. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0952/11).
CLAN LAMONT.	British 7526 tons. Following has been read. S.S.S.S. 57.24N., 26.29 W., CLAN LAMONT sighted. (Lyness W/T TOR 0932/11). Resolution Island reports hearing following at 0834 G.M.T. begins - SSSS 57.24N., 26.29 W. CLAN LAMONT sighted - ends, bearing 82 approx. uncalibrated. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1316/11 to Admty).

Submarines Reported.

0644.	54° N., W. of 20° W. very indefinite position. (D.S. 553).
0406.	51° N., 15°18°W. very indefinite position (D.S.553.)
0116.	47½° - 48½° N., 8° - 9° W., very indefinite position. (D.S.553.)
1107.	25' radius 54.20N., 19.20 W. position indefinite (D.S.554).

MOST SECRET.

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WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1742.	55° - 56° N., 19° - 21° W. position indefinite (Italian) (D.S.554).
1256.	About 48° N., 14° W. Very indfinite. (D.S.554).

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1348/11).

War Diaries

1-2-41 to 8-4-41

Can't on reel K-5 B

ENDING OF

REEL K-4B

DOCUMENTS - PHOTOGRAPHED

War Diaries 1-2-41 to 8-4-41 1-2-41 to 8-4-41	cont from reel K-3B cont on reel K-5B

ONL

DATE: April 12, 1966

MACH. NO. 475

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: FORTA, J.V.R